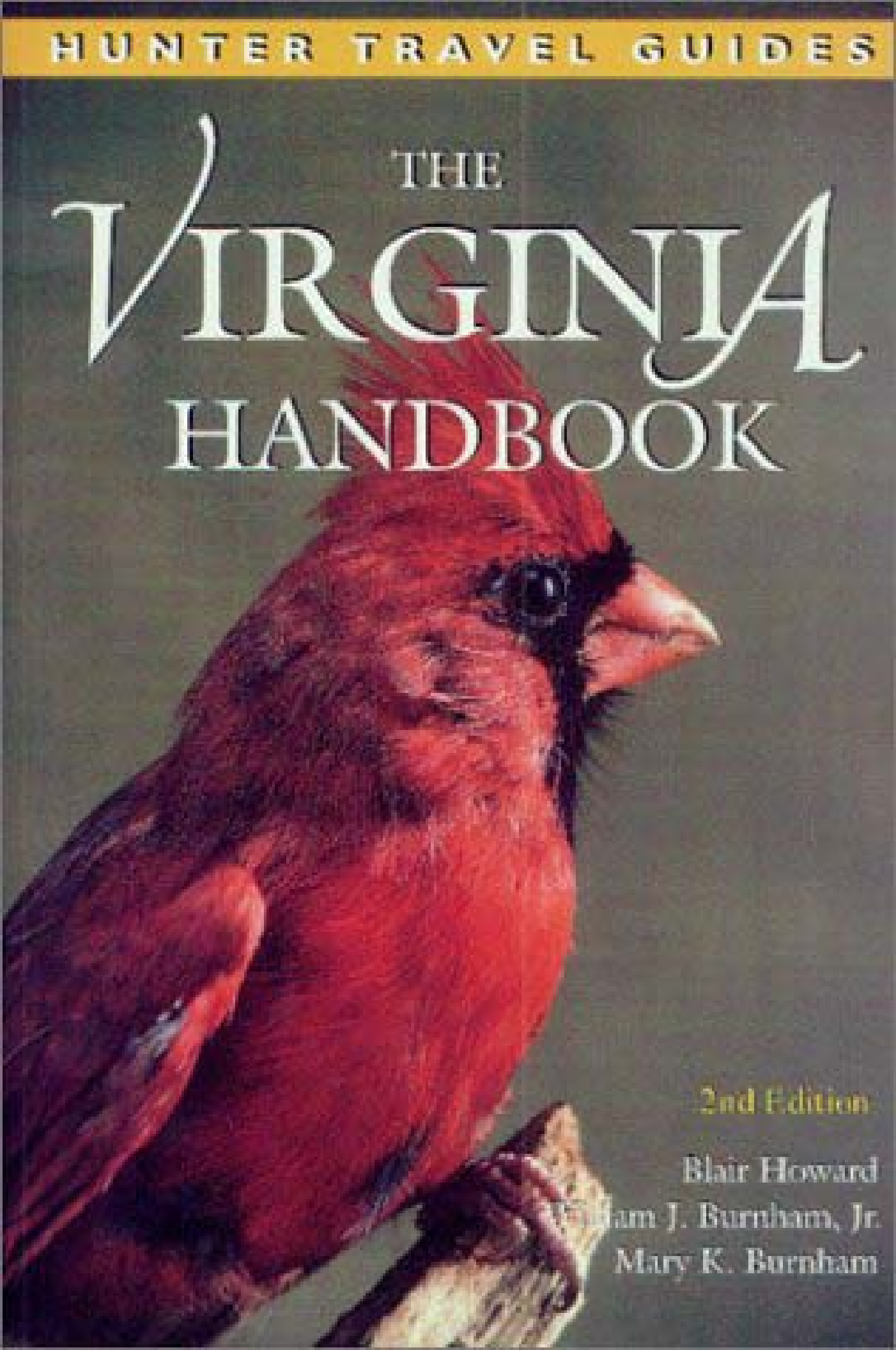
HUNTER TRAVEL GUIDES

# THE VIRGINIA HANDBOOK



2nd Edition

Blair Howard
William J. Burnham, Jr.
Mary K. Burnham

VISIT…



# THE VIRGINIA HANDBOOK

2nd Edition

Blair Howard, Mary Burnham
& Bill Burnham



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# *Introduction*



Virginia is a spectacular state; ask any Virginian. And anyone who's ever visited the Old Dominion will tell you it's true. From the majesty of the Blue Ridge Mountains in the west to the mighty river deltas in the east, Virginia is a great green blanket cast down upon the landscape to delight us all. The Commonwealth is the grandfather of these United States. It saw the beginnings of this great country as it was hewn from the virgin timber. It saw the birth of a new nation when the English surrendered at Yorktown. And it saw the nation's rebirth when General Lee surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox, thus bringing the great Civil War to an end.

Visitors to the Commonwealth can step back into a bygone age when those pitifully few pioneers founded Jamestown, the first English settlement in the New World. They can visit numerous Revolutionary War battlefields, and follow in the footsteps of men like Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson from Manassas to Fredericksburg, from Petersburg to Appomattox.

## Virginia at a Glance

- **Nickname:** The Old Dominion
- **Motto:** *Sic semper tyrannis* (Thus always to tyrants)
- **Population:** 6.7 million
- **Major Cities:** Arlington, Hampton-Newport News, Norfolk-Virginia Beach, Richmond, Roanoke
- **Major Rivers:** James, Rappahannock, York, Potomac and Shenandoah
- **Capital:** Richmond
- **State Bird:** Cardinal
- **State Flower:** Dogwood
- **State Tree:** Dogwood
- **Shell:** Oyster

Nature lovers can hike the Appalachian Trail, explore the vast wooded expanses of the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests, and drive the Blue Ridge Parkway and hundreds of miles of scenic highways. They can descend to the center of the earth in the great limestone caverns

of the Shenandoah Valley and wander the wetlands of the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge.

There's swimming, fishing, biking, golf, and skiing at Virginia's four-season resorts. You can explore more than 50 national and state parks, hundreds of freshwater lakes, and over 3,000 miles of rivers and streams.

For water lovers, there are magnificent beaches and barrier islands to explore. The Eastern Shore on the Delmarva Peninsula offers some of the finest boating and fishing anywhere in the United States.

Today, Virginia, after a somewhat turbulent history, has settled down, and evolved. It's achieved a state of tranquillity, content with the part it has played and will continue to play in our nation's heritage.



## Geography

Virginia is shaped roughly like a triangle, with its southern boundary as the base and its borders following the topography. To the northeast, Virginia is separated from Maryland and the District of Columbia by the west bank of the Potomac River. To the west and northwest it is bounded by the states of West Virginia and Kentucky, and to the south by Tennessee and North Carolina. To the east, Virginia is bordered by the Atlantic Ocean. America's largest estuary, the Chesapeake Bay, separates the low-lying coastal plains of eastern Virginia and the two eastern counties, Northampton and Accomack, located on the Delmarva Peninsula.

> ❖ *The name **Delmarva** comes from the names of the three states – Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia – that occupy the area. Virginia's portion occupies the southernmost tip.*

Virginia's southern border is 440 miles long, and the greatest distance, from north to south, is 196 miles. Its total area is 40,817 square miles, which includes more than 1,000 square miles of inland water surface.

## The Five Regions

There are five distinct and natural regions in Virginia, which slopes gently upward from sea level in the east to more than 5,000 feet in the mountainous regions of the west. Mount Rogers, located to the southwest on the border between Smyth and Grayson counties, is the highest point in the state at 5,729 feet.

**Northern Virginia** encompasses the section of the state southwest of the Maryland border from Arlington to Leesburg, to a line running roughly along the southern borders of Greene, Orange, Spotsylvania, and Caroline counties.

The history of Northern Virginia spans more than three centuries. While still very much representative of The Old South with its plantations, colo-

nial homes, cobblestone streets and old-world charm, this region is also Virginia's most urbanized and dynamic. Burgeoning suburban communities are interspersed with modern skyscrapers, highways, shopping centers and malls.

Visitors to thi region can visit the Eternal Flame at the Kennedy Gravesite in the Arlington National Cemetery; gaze in wonder at the world's largest cast bronze statue, the great Iwo Jima Memorial; and tour the Pentagon, the world's largest office building. They can also visit Mount Vernon – George Washington's home – or simply relax and enjoy the relics of a time gone by.

The **Coastal Plain** includes the increasingly metropolitan area of Hampton Roads, the two counties on the Delmarva Peninsula known as the Eastern Shore, and the rural counties that make up the Chesapeake Bay region. The coastal plain extends inland for about 100 miles to a line that runs north and south from Arlington through Richmond, and down to Emporia in Brunswick county on the North Carolina border. The elevation of the Coastal Plain ranges from 0 to 300 feet above sea level. In places, the great plain, slashed from east to west into three peninsulas by the Potomac, the Rappahannock, the York, and the James rivers, remains swampy, undeveloped wetlands. Typical of this is the 750-square-mile Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Area south of Suffolk and Chesapeake in the extreme southeastern corner of the state, and extending into North Carolina.

❖ *"Roads" is an Old English term for waterway.*

In the Hampton Roads region, water impacts every aspect of life. Here, freshwater carried by the James and York rivers mingles with ocean water in fertile tidal deltas. Crabbers, oystermen and fishermen plied a living here for generations. Perched strategically at the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay, Hampton Roads is thick with military installations. The white sand beaches of Virginia Beach have elevated the region to a major vacation destination.

**Central Virginia** consists primarily of the Piedmont Plateau west of the Coastal Plain. It is a region of low rolling hills about 40 miles wide to the north and some 150 miles wide along its southern border. It's an area where the old and the new come together, where quaint old country towns and villages lie side-by-side in perfect harmony with Virginia's modern cities. Here, the foothills of the Blue Ridge give way to the valleys of the great tidal rivers. This is where many great patriots – men like Patrick Henry, Thomas Jefferson, James Monroe, and James Madison – dreamed the dreams that gave birth to a nation.

The **Shenandoah Valley** region, renowned for its majestic mountains, its breathtaking scenery and glorious valley, covers most of western Virginia. It's a section of the Great Valley that extends from New Jersey to Tennessee. In Virginia, it funnels between the Allegheny and Blue Ridge

mountains. The Shenandoah Valley, "daughter of the stars," with its rich limestone soil, is one of the most fertile regions in the state – an area that once was the breadbasket of the Confederacy. It is also a region that abounds with natural wonders and opportunities for outdoor activities ranging from hiking to horseback riding, and from tennis to snow skiing.

The Shenandoah's largest city, Roanoke, is a bustling community with a population of more than 95,000 people and a culture all its own. Steeped in the arts and history, Roanoke lies at the heart of an area where year-round festivals offer a myriad of regional foods and crafts.

Shenandoah. The name stirs the blood and conjures romantic images of a long-lost age of magnificence, grand country homes, horse-drawn carriages, elegant men with impeccable manners and beautiful ladies dressed in crinolines. And there's much more. It's an area of extraordinary natural beauty, of rushing rivers, broad meadows, and sweeping mountain vistas. Shenandoah, truly, is Virginia's crowning glory.

**Southwest Virginia** is dominated by the Blue Ridge Mountains and Southwest Highlands, which extend for about 300 miles across the whole state in a southwest-northeast direction. The Blue Ridge are at their widest near the North Carolina border. To the southwest rise the headwaters of Virginia's great Tidewater rivers – the Rappahannock, the York, and the James. To the north, the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers join together at Harpers Ferry in West Virginia to carve a deep gash through the Blue Ridge Mountains. To the south, the Roanoke River rises and crosses over into North Carolina. Farther still lie the highlands of southwestern Virginia, the homeplace of bluegrass music and the source of Virginia's tremendous mineral wealth. It was in this far-off region that Daniel Boone carved out his Wilderness Trail through the Cumberland Gap and so began the push to drive back the frontiers of the new nation.

The pioneering spirit of so long ago still remains among the hills and valleys of the Blue Ridge, the Cumberland Mountains, and the Alleghenies, where, so its people claim, the Great Outdoors begins and ends.

## *The Land*

The entire state is a treasure chest of natural resources: hundreds of square miles of rich grazing land, abundant waterpower, teeming fisheries, thousands of acres of hardwood and softwood forests, and an abundance of solid fuels and minerals.

In colonial times, Virginia's soils, especially those of the Tidewater and Piedmont regions, were left barren; worn out by the poor land management techniques of the early settlers, and by over-intensive tobacco growing. Today, the land has been reclaimed and revitalized by an intensive and long-term program of crop rotation and other conservation practices. Once again, it supports such crops as tobacco, grain and fruit.

Virginia's ongoing program of land management and conservation led to the building of its two largest flood-control and hydroelectric projects: the Philpott Dam on the Smith River and the John H. Kerr Dam on the Roanoke River. Both projects were completed during the 1950s.

Many state and national agencies have been part of Virginia's efforts at reclamation and its many conservation programs. Much of the credit for the success of these programs must go to the agencies that have directed them. These include the Virginia State Department of Conservation and Historic Resources, the Marine Resources Commission, and the Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries.

Virginia's commercial resources include the ports of Hampton Roads, navigable rivers, and the scenic and historic attractions for tourists.

## *Flowers & Trees*

The **flowering dogwood** is Virginia's state tree. When the breath of spring blows, it is the dogwoods that awaken first, bursting forth in white and pink flowers. When fall comes, the brilliant red foliage provides colorful country and city walks. Its scarlet berries remain throughout most of the winter.

The **redbud** is another medium-size flowering tree found throughout Virginia. The leaves appear in the early spring, followed by a profusion of small rose-pink flowers. The redbud blossoms at about the same time of year as the dogwood.

The **crape myrtle**, also found throughout the state, is perhaps the South's most beautiful flowering tree. It grows to a height of more than 10 feet and blooms from July until early frost with red, pink, purple and white flowers.

The famous **Southern magnolia**, with its large, fragrant, white flowers, blooms in the summer and can be seen in Virginia's parks and gardens and along many city walks.

**Azalea** and **rhododendron** are also popular Southern evergreen shrubs. They are found in many of Virginia's gardens and parks, blooming in the spring with varying shades of red, pink and purple blossoms.

The chief commercial trees are **pine** in the Coastal Plain, **hardwoods** in the mountains, and mixed pine and hardwoods on the Piedmont Plateau.

## *The People*

At the time of the founding of Jamestown in 1607, the largest group of Native Americans in the area was the **Powhatan Confederacy**, an association of tribes that covered southeastern Virginia. These were woodland Indians led by Chief Powhatan. It was from Chief Powhatan that the

European colonists learned about tobacco cultivation. After several years of warfare between the Indians and the settlers, the marriage of Chief Powhatan's daughter, Pocahontas, to John Rolfe in 1614 brought peace to the area, at least for a time. When the Powhatans attacked the colonial settlements in 1622 and in 1644, however, the colonists retaliated. The Indians were slaughtered almost to the point of extinction.

Most of the white population of Virginia stems from two immigrant groups. In the Hampton Roads section nearly all of the early settlers were English. The other group consisted of German and Scotch-Irish immigrants who had pushed down into the Shenandoah Valley from Pennsylvania sometime around 1730. Today only about 3% of Virginia's population is foreign-born. African-Americans, who made up 40% of the population in the 1700s, now total only 20%.

- *Virginia has the distinction of producing not only the author of the Declaration of Independence and other Revolutionary stalwarts, but 12 American Presidents as well. It is no wonder then that one nickname for the Old Dominion is "Mother of States and Statesman."*

## Notable Virginians

Plenty of celebrities and political heavyweights got their start in Virginia.

- **L. Douglas Wilder** was born on January 17, 1931, in Richmond. In 1969, Wilder became the first black elected to the Virginia State Senate since Reconstruction. He was Lieutenant Governor of Virginia in 1985, and four years later became the first black Governor in the United States.
- **Carter Godwin Woodson**, a noted historian, educator, and editor, was born on December 19, 1875, in New Canton. Woodson graduated from Harvard University in 1912 and three years later, in 1915, founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. He died in 1950.
- Actor **Warren Beatty** was born Henry Warren Beatty on March 30, 1937 in Richmond. He landed his first movie role, *Splendor in the Grass*, in 1961 and later began producing his own films, including *Bonnie and Clyde* in 1967 and *Shampoo* in 1975. Other films to his credit include *Heaven Can Wait*, the Academy Award-winning *Reds*, as well as *Dick Tracy* and the political satire *Bullworth*.
- **Jerry Falwell**, the noted evangelist and political lobbyist, was born on August 11, 1933 in Lynchburg. Falwell established the Lynchburg Baptist College, now Liberty University, in 1971, and founded the Moral Majority in 1979 to involve the Christian evangelical move-

ment in politics through lobbying and the endorsement of candidates. Falwell resigned as president of the Moral Majority in 1987 and disbanded the group in 1989.

- Novelist **Ellen Glasgow** was born on April 22, 1873 in Richmond. Her first novel, *The Descendant*, was published in 1897; her last, *In This Our Life*, was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1942. Other Ellen Glasgow novels include *The Voice of the People*, *Life and Gabriella*, *Barren Ground*, and *The Sheltered Life*. She died in 1945.
- **Joseph Eggleston Johnston** was born on February 3, 1807, near Farmville. Johnston became a Confederate general in 1861, having led Confederate forces under General P.G.T. Beauregard in the first battle of Bull Run at Manassas. He led the Army of Tennessee through the Atlanta Campaign, but was forced to surrender to General William T. Sherman in North Carolina in 1865. After the war Johnston served in the House of Representatives from 1879 to 1881 and was named United States Commissioner of Railroads in 1885.
- Novelist **William Styron** was born on June 11, 1925, in Newport News. His first novel, *Lie Down in Darkness*, published in 1951, received critical acclaim; his fourth, *The Confessions of Nat Turner*, published in 1967, won him the Pulitzer Prize in 1968. *Sophie's Choice*, published in 1979, was adapted as a major motion picture in 1982, starring Meryl Streep.
- Football star **Fran Tarkenton** was born on February 3, 1940 in Richmond. He was quarterback for the Minnesota Vikings for five years, then traded to the New York Giants in 1967, traded back to the Vikings in 1972, and finally retired from the game in 1978. He was elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1986.
- Other notable Virginians include explorer and aviator **Adm. Richard E. Byrd**, country music singer **Patsy Cline**, Confederate Generals **Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson** and **Robert E. Lee**, Supreme Court Justice **John Marshall**, US Army doctor **Walter Reed**, former slave and abolitionist **Booker T. Washington**, and the exploring duo of **Meriwether Lewis and William Clark**.
    - In addition to **George Washington**, other Presidents born in Virginia were **Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, James Monroe, William H. Harrison, John Tyler, Zachary Taylor**, and **Woodrow Wilson**.

## *Major Cities*

**Norfolk**, Virginia's chief port city, is located in the Hampton Roads area where the James River enters the Chesapeake Bay. It has played a key part in the defense of the United States since colonial days and is the home port of the United States Atlantic Fleet.

**Virginia Beach**, the state's most populous city, and Norfolk anchor the Hampton Roads region, a geographic area comprised of seven cities, plus surrounding counties, in southeast Virginia. Other Hampton Roads cities include Newport News, Hampton, Portsmouth and Chesapeake. Military-rich and diverse in population, this is Virginia's fastest growing region, with 1.5 million people.

**Richmond**, the state capital, is one of the leading industrial cities of the South, and the third largest city in Virginia. It is home to R.J.R. Reynolds, the cigarette manufacturer, and a growing number of high-tech companies.

**Alexandria**, on the west bank of the Potomac, is a residential city and something of a bedroom community for the nation's capital, Washington DC, located just to the east across the Potomac River.

**Roanoke**, at the southern end of the Shenandoah Valley, is the largest city in western Virginia, as well as the business and cultural center for the region.

**Petersburg**, just to the south of Richmond, **Lynchburg** on the upper James River, and **Danville**, close to the southern border, represent Virginia's major tobacco markets.

## *History*

It was during the reign of King James I of England that men of the **Virginia Company of London** arrived in three ships off the shore of a marshy peninsula, some 30 miles inland from the entrance to the Chesapeake Bay. They went ashore there on the 13th of March, 1607, and founded **Jamestown**, the first permanent English settlement in America. The mission of these first settlers was commercial, a fact that set Jamestown apart from the other English foothold in America, the religious settlement of Plymouth in New England.

For three years, the tiny Jamestown colony struggled for survival under the direction of **Captain John Smith**. Only the arrival in 1610 of the new governor, Sir Thomas West, Lord de la Warr, with supplies from England, saved the community from extinction. During the years that followed, life in the new colony took a turn for the better. In 1612, John Rolfe, husband of the Indian princess Pocahontas, introduced tobacco growing, and Jamestown began to prosper.

In 1616 a new charter granted each free colonist 50 acres of land. It is believed that around this same time, the first black indentured servants landed in the New World, and the House of Burgesses, the first representative assembly formed in America, was established to provide a government of the Virginia planters.

In 1624 the tiny settlement became a royal colony and a royal governor was appointed. It wasn't long afterwards that the local Indians began a war with the settlers. It didn't end until they were defeated in 1675 by **Nathaniel Bacon**.

Bacon, a young English lawyer who had emigrated from London to become a planter, was outraged at the way the new colony was being misgoverned by Sir William Berkeley. When Berkeley refused to take measures to stop the Indian attacks, Bacon organized the colonists and did it himself. Bacon's movement broadened as dissatisfaction with Berkeley grew. Eventually, it became a full rebellion against the aristocracy in general and Berkeley in particular. The rebellion ended when Bacon died suddenly soon after his followers had burned Jamestown and driven Berkeley and his followers into refuge on board an English man-of-war.

The years that followed Bacon's Rebellion were prosperous ones for the colonists. The tobacco plantations thrived on the cheap labor of black slaves; their owners grew wealthy.

Virginia's prosperity, however, brought heavy taxation. More new taxes were added until finally, in 1765, Patrick Henry's rousing speech against the Stamp Act brought the colonies to the brink of revolution.

Patriots in Virginia rallied opposition against the government in England and, in May 1776, they asked the Continental Congress to make a formal declaration of independence. The resolution, written mostly by Virginian Thomas Jefferson, was introduced to the Congress by Virginia delegate Richard Henry Lee, and was adopted on July 2, 1776.

As the tumultuous events taking place at the Continental Congress were heading rapidly toward a climax, Virginia adopted a state constitution that included a bill of rights. This was followed by the passing of Thomas Jefferson's acts for religious freedom and the outlawing of the laws that restricted the inheritance of land and other wealth to one line of descendants.

And so the **War of the Revolution** began. During the years that followed, many patriotic Virginians, including George Rogers Clark, "Light-Horse Harry" Lee, and Daniel Morgan, fought alongside George Washington. The fighting eventually ended when General George Cornwallis surrendered to Washington at Yorktown on October 18th, 1781.

In 1859, when John Brown made his famous raid on Harpers Ferry, the area we know today as West Virginia was still a part of Virginia. There's no doubt that Brown's raid was instrumental in bringing the nation, already deep in conflict over state's rights, to the brink of civil war.

On December 20th, 1860, the government of South Carolina seceded from the Union. Thereafter, things began to move quickly. A month later, on January 21, the State of Mississippi followed suit and was quickly joined

by Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Texas. On February 20th, 1861, in Montgomery, Alabama, Jefferson Davis took the oath as the first President of the Confederate States of America. On April 13th, 1861, Confederate forces accepted the surrender of the Federal Garrison at Fort Sumter in South Carolina. Two days later, on April 15th, President Lincoln issued a proclamation that called into service 75,000 militia for a period of three months, thus effectively declaring war upon the fledgling Confederacy.

Virginia, although unwilling to take a stand on the issue of slavery, stood firm on the perceived constitutional fact that every state in the Union enjoyed the same sovereign rights. So it wasn't until Lincoln's call to arms in April, 1861, that she made her fateful choice and joined her Southern sister states in secession. The Confederate capital was moved from Montgomery, Alabama to Richmond during May and June of 1861. Richmond remained the capital of the Confederate States until it fell to General US Grant's army in April, 1865.

For four years the Civil War raged back and forth across Virginia. Great battles were fought at such places as Manassas, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, in The Wilderness, on the Peninsula, at Petersburg, Mechanicsville, Cold Harbor, Malvern Hill, Five Forks, and Sayler's Creek. Some of the greatest generals the world has ever seen were Virginians. Men like Robert E. Lee, Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson, Jeb Stuart, Jubal Early, Joseph E. Johnston and George Pickett fought side-by-side through the years of war that ravaged the state.

After the fighting ended, Virginians had to rebuild. The once-great cities had been laid waste by four years of death and destruction. It was many years before the war-torn land recovered.

Virginia's original colonial charter encompassed so much territory that it was virtually unmanageable. At one point, Augusta County west of the Blue Ridge extended all the way to the Mississippi River, and north into Illinois. Piece-by-piece, western sections were cut away to form the present states of Kentucky, Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin and a large part of Minnesota. The bitter conflict within Virginia over secession from the Union in 1861 reduced it even further when, in 1863, the 50 counties in far northwest Virginia broke away to form the new state of West Virginia.

Since the end of the Civil War, despite the massive loss of territory, Virginia's population has steadily increased to the point where, today, it ranks 14th among the states with a population of 6.3 million people.

## *The Rise & Fall of Slavery in Virginia*

From the earliest times equal rights were a monumental issue in Virginia. And from the beginning the state had been a principal site for the development of slavery in the Americas.

# Summary of Virginia's Notable Historic Events

**1606.** King James I chartered two companies to colonize Virginia.

**1607.** Jamestown, the first permanent English settlement in North America, was founded. John Smith became the leader of the colony.

**1610.** Lord De la Warr arrived with supplies and prevented the desertion of Jamestown.

**1612.** John Rolfe cultivated tobacco.

**1619.** House of Burgesses was created. The first representative assembly in America met at Jamestown. The first black indentured servants arrive in America.

**1622.** Indians massacred many of the colonists.

**1624.** The king revoked the Virginia Company's charter.

**1676.** Nathaniel Bacon led the revolt against the Governor.

**1693.** The College of William and Mary was chartered at Williamsburg.

**1699.** Virginia's capital was moved from Jamestown to Williamsburg.

**1716.** The first theater in America was built at Williamsburg.

**1775.** Patrick Henry delivered his "liberty or death" oration.

**1776.** Virginia declared its independence.

**1778.** State authorized the Northwest expedition by George Rogers Clark, born in 1752 near Charlottesville.

**1779.** Richmond became Virginia's state capital.

**1781.** Lord Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown.

**1784.** Virginia ceded its northwestern lands to the US.

**1787.** The Constitutional Convention adopted the Virginia Plan.

**1788.** Virginia was the 10th state to ratify the US Constitution on June 26.

**1789.** George Washington, born 1732 near Oak Grove, became the first President of the US.

**1792.** The State Capitol was completed.

**1801.** John Marshall, born in 1755 in Fauquier County, was appointed Chief Justice of the US.

**1819.** The State University was founded in Charlottesville.

**1831.** Nat Turner led the slave rebellion in Southampton County. Cyrus McCormick invented the first successful reaper near Steeles Tavern.

**1846.** Two Virginians, Zachary Taylor and Winfield Scott, commanded American armies during the Mexican War.

**1859.** John Brown seized the arsenal at Harpers Ferry.

**1861.** Virginia seceded from Union. General Robert E. Lee took command of Virginia's forces. Richmond became the Confederate capital. The first major land battle of the Civil War was fought at Bull Run.

**1862.** The *USS. Monitor* and the *CSS Merrimack* engage in a historic sea battle in Hampton Roads. General Stonewall Jackson defeated Union forces in the Shenandoah Valley. Lee was recalled to Richmond.

**1863.** Virginia lost some of its territory by the admission of West Virginia to the Union.

**1865.** Lee surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia to Gen. Ulysses S. Grant near Appomattox, ending American Civil War.

**1870.** Virginia was readmitted to the Union.

**1908.** Staunton became the first city in the US with a city manager.

**1915.** The Virginia-West Virginia debt dispute was settled.

**1926.** John D. Rockefeller, Jr. restored Williamsburg.

**1951.** The *SS United States*, the largest ocean liner ever constructed in the US, was launched at Newport News.

**1952.** The John H. Kerr Dam on Roanoke River was completed.

**1964.** The Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel was completed.

**1966.** The Supreme Court ruled that Virginia's poll tax was unconstitutional, thus outlawing that type of tax in all states.

**1970.** Virginia's present state constitution was adopted.

**1972.** Tropical storm Agnes produced the worst floods in recorded history.

**1985.** Devastating floods followed Hurricane Juan.

**1990.** L. Douglas Wilder was sworn in as Governor of Virginia, the first elected black governor in the US.

**1993.** Republican George Allen inaugurated as governor.

**1999.** Republicans gain a majority in the state legislature for the first time since Reconstruction.



Indentured servitude was a form of contract labor used in the English colonies of North America. The first indentured servants were believed to have been introduced in 1616. For the next 25 years, large numbers of German, English and Scottish colonists arrived in the New World as indentured servants. Some were convicted criminals, while others were too poor to pay their way to the colonies by any other means. Often the contracts were made with ship captains who, upon arrival in the colonies, sold them to someone else. A contract usually ran from five to seven years, after which the servant became free.

By 1650, many of the first indentured servants had earned their freedom. This caused something of a problem, mainly because replacements were costly and often in short supply. The plantation owners in Virginia began to consider the advantages of slavery, a policy already being exercised by landowners in the Caribbean. And so it was that Virginia legalized slavery in the colony in 1661. By 1672, the English Royal African Company was bringing black slaves into America by the shipload. By the end of the American Revolution the system of indentured labor had died out altogether, and slavery had become the only system of forced labor in the United States.

By the early 1800s, the harsh code of slavery that had developed in the West Indies had also been introduced in Virginia. The state's plantation economy relied heavily on slaves, and any threat to this system met with harsh consequences. Such was the fate of a slave named Nat Turner, who in 1831 led a rebellion in Southampton, in southeast Virginia. After terrorizing the countryside for several weeks, Turner and others were finally captured and hanged.

And so, for more than 300 years, a pattern of fear, punishment, and segregation developed, one that persisted well into the 20th century. Things

began to change in 1926, when Virginia became the first Southern state to adopt an anti-lynching law.

Politically, however, Virginia remained strongly segregationist. So much so that, for more than five years in the 1960s, the schools in Prince Edward County were closed down as part of a local strategy to avoid racial integration. Other cities and counties joined in the "massive resistance" toward mixing black and white students. By 1990, however, the political climate in Virginia had changed so completely that L. Douglas Wilder, the grandson of Richmond-area slaves, became the first elected black Governor in the United States.

## *Climate*

Although Virginia's climate is generally mild and pleasant, there is a wide variation in temperatures between the eastern and western parts of the state.

> ❖ *As a rule, for every 1,000 feet of elevation gain, the temperature drops 6°F. Therefore, a late October day can produce 75° temperatures in Hampton Roads, while ice and snow signal the approaching winter in far Southwest Virginia.*

Hampton Roads is tempered by the ocean breezes and the climate stays fairly moderate throughout most of the year. To the west, especially in the Appalachian Highlands, cold winters and cool summers are the norm. Burkes Garden in Tazewell County, a unique bowl-shaped valley in Southwest Virginia, has the latest spring frosts on record for the state.

Average mean temperatures vary across the state from 54°F in the southwestern mountains to about 59° along the coast. The average annual precipitation varies from about 50 inches in the extreme southeastern region to around 35 inches in the northwestern part of the state. The area with the longest growing season – about 260 days – extends southward along the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay from Northumberland County to Virginia Beach. At the other extreme is the southwestern region of Virginia, especially in the higher elevations around the Jefferson National Forest, with only some 150 frost-free days a year.

## *Scenic & Historic Attractions*

In 1969, the state coined a slogan that has since become an industry standard: "Virginia is for Lovers." Three decades later, the importance of tourism as a piece of Virginia's economy has grown by leaps and bounds. **Virginia Beach** is the "resort city," its miles of white sand beach lined with high-rise hotels, its neon-encased strip teeming with tourists and businesses hawking T-shirts, beachwear and souvenirs. To the west, the magnificent scenic routes of the **Blue Ridge Parkway** and **Skyline**

**Drive** that run along the top of the western mountains attract visitors throughout the year. Iron markers at strategic locations along almost all of Virginia's highways pinpoint and interpret the state's many **historic spots**. These include the famous battlefields of the Revolutionary and Civil Wars; scenic mountain routes; national parks, including Appomattox Court House National Historic Park, the Arlington House Robert E. Lee Memorial, and Assateague Island National Seashore, home of the Chincoteague ponies; and the homes of such national figures as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Monroe, Woodrow Wilson, Robert E. Lee, and John Marshall.

Of particular historical interest is the peninsula between the York and James rivers, the cradle of the nation. This is the location of **Jamestown**, the first permanent English settlement in America; **Williamsburg**, the colonial capital of Virginia; and **Yorktown**, the site of General Cornwallis' surrender to George Washington at the end of American Revolution.

Two of Virginia's most important attractions are **Arlington National Cemetery**, with its Tomb of the Unknowns in Northern Virginia, and **Appomattox Court House National Historical Park** near Appomattox, where General Lee surrendered to Grant in 1865.

Other important places of interest include the **Ash Lawn-Highland estate**, the home of President James Monroe, with its beautiful box hedges; the **Booker T. Washington National Monument**, birthplace of the black educator and reformer; **Colonial National Historical Park**; and **Cumberland Gap National Historical Park**, the historic pioneer pass in Virginia, Kentucky, and Tennessee, where visitors enjoy spectacular views.

In Fredericksburg, visitors can take in **James Monroe's law office**; the homes of George Washington's mother and sister; the **Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park**, which includes the major American Civil War battlefields of Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, The Wilderness, and Spotsylvania Court House, as well as the Fredericksburg National Cemetery; and the George Washington Birthplace National Monument.

Then there's the **George Washington Memorial Parkway**; **Hungry Mother State Park**; the **Lee Memorial Chapel Museum** at Washington and Lee University; the **MacArthur Memorial** in Norfolk, which includes the tomb and memorabilia of General Douglas MacArthur; the **Mariners' Museum** near Newport News; **Monticello**, the mansion and tomb of President Thomas Jefferson near Charlottesville; and **Mount Vernon**, George Washington's home on the Potomac River.

Other important tourist attractions in Virginia include the **Virginia Air and Space Museum** in Hampton, **Petersburg National Battlefield**, the site of the longest siege in United States history which took place dur-

ing the final stages of the Civil War; **Pohick Church**, built in 1774 near Fort Belvoir, where George Washington served in the vestry; **Shenandoah National Park** in the Blue Ridge Mountains with its scenic Skyline Drive along the crest of the ridge; the **Stratford Hall Plantation** near Stratford; and Woodrow Wilson's Birthplace in Staunton.

## *Government*

The chief executive officer of the state is the **Governor**, who heads the **Executive Branch** and is limited to one four-year term. Other members of the Executive Branch are a Lieutenant Governor and an Attorney General, both of whom are elected and serve four-year terms.

Lawmaking is the domain of the **General Assembly**, which consists of the State Senate and the House of Delegates. Virginia's judicial branch of the government is headed by the **Supreme Court**, which has seven justices serving a term of 12 years. The **State Judiciary** is composed of the Supreme Court; a Court of Appeals, where 10 judges serve eight-year terms; and the Virginia Circuit courts, where 122 judges serve for eight years. The **State Legislature** is composed of 40 senators serving four-year terms, and 100 delegates each serving two-year terms. Virginia is represented in the **US Congress** by two members of the Senate and 11 members of the House of Representatives. The state controls 13 electoral votes.

Virginia, traditionally Democratic in state and local politics since the days of Reconstruction, saw a resurgence of Republican-dominated politics in the 1990s. While voters in Virginia supported the Democratic presidential candidate in all elections until 1968, except those held in 1928, 1952, 1956 and 1960, the state is now considered a lock to support Republican presidential candidates.

Emblematic of that change was the election in 1993 of Republican George Allen, son of the great football coach, as Governor. Four years later, his protege, Republican James Gilmore, took the state's highest office. And in 1999, Virginia voters sent a majority of Republicans to the General Assembly for the first time since Reconstruction.

Since 1779, the state capital has been **Richmond**. Virginia became the 10th state in the Union on June 26, 1788. A state constitution was adopted in 1970. An amendment to the state constitution may be passed only by a majority vote of the General Assembly at two consecutive sessions, and must be ratified by a majority vote in an election.

There are **95 counties** in the State of Virginia, most of which are governed by boards of supervisors and county administrators; and **41 independent cities**, governed by city councils and city managers.

# *Education & Culture*

The first free school in colonial Virginia was founded in Hampton in 1634. Virginia's first college, **William and Mary**, was chartered in Williamsburg in 1693 and was the second college to be founded in the colonies. Only Harvard, founded in 1636, is older.

Thomas Jefferson was the first to advocate a free public educational system in America, but it wasn't until 1870 that the present public school system was established.

The **University of Virginia** was founded in Charlottesville by Thomas Jefferson in 1819. Since then the state system of higher education has grown and expanded, until today it rivals any in the nation for its diversity and quality of education. Other state-supported schools include the **Wise Campus** branch of the University of Virginia; the **Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University** in Blacksburg; **Virginia Commonwealth University** in Richmond; **Old Dominion University** in Norfolk; the **College of William and Mary** in Williamsburg; **Christopher Newport College** in Newport News; **Virginia State University** in Petersburg; **Norfolk State University** in Norfolk; **Radford University** in Radford; **James Madison University** in Harrisonburg; **Virginia Military Institute** in Lexington; **Longwood College** in Farmville; **George Mason University** in Fairfax; and **Mary Washington College**, formerly the women's division of the University in Fredericksburg, now an independent coeducational school.

Virginia is also home to **Washington and Lee University** in Lexington; the **University of Richmond** and **Virginia Union University** in Richmond; **Hampton University**; **Lynchburg College**; **Randolph-Macon College** in Ashland; **Randolph-Macon Woman's College** in Lynchburg; **Sweet Briar College**; and **Hampden-Sydney College**.

## *Libraries*

The state's most important libraries include **Fairfax County Public Library**; **Old Dominion University Library** at Norfolk; **Richmond Public Library**; the **University of Virginia Library** in Charlottesville; the **Virginia Beach Public Libraries**; the **Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University Library** at Blacksburg; and the **Virginia State Library** in Richmond.

> ❖ *Most libraries in major cities feature a Virginiana Room, repositories for important documents relating to the state, as well as genealogical information.*

## *Museums*

Virginia's most notable museums are the **Casemate Museum** at Fort Monroe; the **Chrysler Museum** in Norfolk; **Colonial Williamsburg**;

**Manassas National Battlefield Park**; the **Mariners' Museum** at Newport News; the **Virginia Air and Space Museum** in Hampton; the **Museum of the Confederacy** in Richmond; **New Market Battlefield Park**; **Roanoke Museum of Fine Arts**; the **Valentine Museum** and the **Virginia Museum of Fine Arts** in Richmond; the **Virginia Military Institute Museum** in Lexington; and the **Woodrow Wilson Birthplace Foundation** in Staunton.

## *Manufacturing & Employment*

During the 1900s Virginia slowly but surely turned away from the old agrarian economy and moved toward an industrial one. Today, while farming is still an important part of the state's gross product, Virginia's economy is more balanced between manufacturing, government, services and high tech. Manufacturing provides almost 60% of Virginia's total income, six times that derived from the farms, mines, forests, and fisheries. Government accounts for 20% of the state's total income, while services contributes 18%.

Virginia ranks as one of the top industrial states in the South, with more than $100 billion in annual manufacturing shipments. The state's manufacturing sector is also one of the most diversified in the nation. About 20% of Virginia's total work force is employed in its industrial plants.

Spurred by the presence of government and military, high-tech companies look more and more to the major cities of Virginia, primarily in Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads. America Online, the nation's largest Internet service provider, is headquartered in Ashburn, just a half-hour from Washington DC. Gateway 2000 is a major employer in Hampton, and media companies like MediaOne and Media General have a significant presence around the state.

Public administration is also a major source of employment in the state and accounts for about 20% of the state's work force. This includes not only the people employed at the local and state levels, but also those employed by the federal government in civilian and military jobs. Most of the federal employees work in Washington DC, or at the military bases in Hampton Roads.

Virginia's largest industry is the manufacture of transportation equipment, of which shipbuilding and ship repair constitute the largest single sector. Newport News Shipbuilding is the nation's largest private shipbuilder, producing aircraft carriers and nuclear submarines for the US military. The state's vast forest resources provide the foundation for an extensive pulp and paper industry. Virginia's lumber industry produces almost a billion board feet each year, which ranks it among the top 10 states in the nation.

### *Major Products*

**Agricultural products** range from cattle and dairy products, pigs, chickens and turkeys to soybeans, corn, peanuts, potatoes, tomatoes, apples, and peaches. Smithfield Foods in southeast Virginia is the world's largest producer of pork products.

Virginia's **manufactured products** include transportation equipment, textiles, food products, electric and electronic equipment, printing and publishing, and chemicals. Mined products include coal, stone, sand and gravel, calcinated lime, feldspar, gypsum and dolomite.

There are some 50,000 **farms** throughout Virginia, with an average size of about 190 acres. They produce a diverse variety of crops, including tobacco, still one of the state's most valuable products. The state ranks high in tobacco production, along with the two Carolinas and Kentucky. Today, tobacco is grown mostly in the southern Piedmont region of Virginia. Other valuable agricultural products include beef, pork, poultry, eggs, and milk.

**Mining**, too, is a major industry in Virginia. Millions of tons of bituminous coal are dug each year from the Pocahontas coal fields in the southwestern region of the state. Virginia's other chief minerals include stone, sand and gravel, and calicinated lime.

**Commercial fishing** is also an important industry in Virginia, with almost 20% of the nation's total catch arriving through its port cities. The leading ocean catches are menhaden, flounder, croaker, scup and sea trout.

## *Transportation*

Virginia's first transportation system was born on the waters of the Chesapeake Bay and its river tributaries. During the early 1800s a network of canals was dug along the Potomac and James rivers that stretched inland as far as the mountains. The advent of railroads and modern highways deprived these great inland waterways of much of their traffic.

From the earliest times, commerce moved chiefly along a north and south axis until, in the late 1700s, the emphasis changed to east and west. The leading routes east and west, the **Wilderness Road** and the **Little River Turnpike**, were pioneered by men such as Daniel Boone. Today, Virginia's Department of Transportation maintains about 60,000 miles of primary and secondary state roads. In addition, the state is served by a system of federal and interstate highways, of which **Interstate highways** I-95, I-81, and I-77 are the major arteries running north-south; I-64 and I-66 keep traffic moving smoothly from east to west.

Virginia's first railroad was a horse-drawn line that hauled coal from Chesterfield County to Richmond beginning in 1831. The first steam-

powered railroad connected Petersburg with Weldon, NC. During the Civil War Virginia's railroads suffered great damage. Later, many of the smaller lines were absorbed by the major railroads that serve the state today.

**Dulles International Airport** and **Ronald Reagan National Airport** – both in northern Virginia – serve Washington DC and the surrounding metropolitan area. Other major airports serving Virginia are in Richmond, Roanoke, and Norfolk. Also convenient are Tri-Cities Airport in northeast Tennessee and Baltimore/Washington International airport in Baltimore.

## *Fishing & Hunting*

Outstanding opportunities for fishing and hunting abound throughout the state.

**Saltwater fishing** on the ocean, the bay, and the Tidewater river estuaries and creeks is a major sport in Virginia. The state is blessed with more than 120 miles of shoreline on the Atlantic Ocean and more than 300 miles on the Chesapeake Bay. There are also over 1,300 miles of saltwater shoreline on the major river estuaries and their tributaries. There is no closed season for saltwater fishing in Virginia, but there are bag and size limits on some species of fish. A fishing license is not required for fishing in ocean waters or on the sea side of the Eastern Shore. A license is required, however, when fishing the saltwaters of the Chesapeake Bay and the tidal tributaries and creeks. For more information on sizes and bag limits, contact the Virginia Marine Resources Commission, PO Box 756, Newport News, VA 23607, or telephone the Commission at ☎ 757-247-2200.

**Freshwater fishing**, too, is excellent in Virginia. The state's many large reservoirs, lakes, rivers and creeks abound with largemouth and smallmouth bass, striped bass, muskie, northern pike, perch, trout, crappie, bluegill and many more species of pan fish. Some of the best freshwater fishing locations include Lake Anna, Smith Mountain Lake, Lake Gaston, Lake Philpott, Lake Moomaw and Buggs Island Lake; all are nationally known for their excellent bass fishing. A non-resident license to fish costs $30. An additional $30 is required for trout fishing in designated stocked waters. A five-day fishing license can be obtained for $6, and a $3 stamp is added to the state license for fishing in Virginia's national parks.

Hunting for upland game and migratory water fowl is allowed in season. A non-resident hunting license costs $60; a three-day license costs $30. For further hunting and fishing information, and for information regarding special licenses, muzzle-loader and archery, contact the **Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries**, Box 11104, Richmond, VA 23230, ☎ 804-367-1000.

# Outdoor Recreation

Tent and trailer camping and a variety of outdoor sports, water-related activities, hiking, picnicking, horseback riding, golf, etc., are available, not only at 17 of Virginia's state parks, but also at a number of privately operated resorts and outdoor facilities. These are described in some detail in the listings for each town throughout this book.

Shenandoah National Park, as well as the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests, have thousands of acres for outdoor recreation. You can stay in a posh resort along Skyline Drive or explore remote backcountry in the national forests.

❖ *Virginia also contains a quarter of the total mileage of the Appalachian Trail. The Maine-to-Georgia trail enters the state at Damascus and crosses some of the state's most stirring geography, from the Grayson Highlands of southwest Virginia to the sharp ridge-and-valley systems of western Virginia, en route to its exit at Harpers Ferry.*

Parking at state parks for non-campers costs upwards of $3 per car, per day, depending upon the location. Tent and trailer camping is limited to a maximum stay of two weeks and costs between $8 and $14 per night. Reservations may be made up to 180 days in advance by contacting the Reservation Center at **Virginia State Parks**, ☎ 800-933-7275 or 804-225-3867. You can also request a campground directory.

❖ *Contact the Virginia Division of Tourism (☎ 800-827-3325, www.virginia.org) and ask for Virginia Outdoors, The Official Outdoor Recreation Guide.*

# Information & Services

## Road & Weather Information

For current road conditions, call the **Virginia Department of Transportation's Highway Help Line** at ☎ 800-367-ROAD.

## Road Systems

Virginia is well served by an interstate road system.

❖ **Interstate 64** runs east to west and links, in alphabetical order, Ashland, Charlottesville, Chesapeake, Clifton, Forge, Covington, Hampton, Jamestown, Lexington, Newport News, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Richmond, Staunton, Virginia Beach, Waynesboro, Williamsburg, and Yorktown.

- **Interstate 66** links Alexandria, Arlington County, Fairfax, Falls Church, Front Royal, Manassas, and McLean to the nation's capital from the west.
- **Interstate 81** runs north and south almost the entire length of the Blue Ridge and Shenandoah Valley, linking Abingdon, Blacksburg, Bristol, Front Royal, Harrisonburg, Lexington, Marion, Natural Bridge, New Market, Radford, Roanoke, Salem, Staunton, Strasburg, Winchester, Woodbridge, and Wytheville. It connects with Interstate 77 at Wytheville, Interstate 64 at Staunton, and Interstate 66 near Strasburg.
- **Interstate 85** runs south from Petersburg, connecting that city with South Hill and North Carolina.
- **Interstate 95** runs north and south and connects Alexandria, Arlington, Ashland, Emporia, Fairfax, Falls Church, Fredericksburg, Hopewell, McLean, Mount Vernon, Petersburg, Richmond, Springfield, and Triangle with Washington DC
- **Interstate 77** connects Interstate 81 at Wytheville with North Carolina to the south, and with Kentucky to the north.

## *Information Centers*

There are 10 **welcome and information centers** in Virginia at the following locations: at the **northern end** of the state on I-81 in Clear Brook, and on I-66 in Manassas; to the **northeast** on I-95 at Fredericksburg; to the **east** on US 13 in New Church; to the **south** on I-95 at Skippers, and on I-85 at Bracy; to the **southwest** in Bristol on I-81, and in Lambsburg on I-77; to the **west** on I-64 at Covington, and on I-77 in Rocky Gap.

The **Virginia Hospitality & Travel Association** can be reached at 2101 Libbie Avenue, Richmond, VA 23230, ☎ 804-288-3065. The **Virginia Tourism Corporation** is located at 101 9th Street, Richmond, VA 23219, ☎ 804-786-4484. An official state map is available from the **Department of Transportation** at 1401 E. Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23219, ☎ 804-786-2838.

Online information about Virginia begins at the Virginia Division of Tourism's Web site, **www.virginia.org**, which has links to tourism and government offices, lodging, history and travel information.

## Tourist Information Centers – Major Cities

| | |
|---|---|
| Alexandria | ☎ 703-838-4200 |
| Arlington | ☎ 703-228-3988 |
| Fredericksburg | ☎ 540-373-1776 |
| Hampton | ☎ 757-722-1222 |
| Lexington | ☎ 540-463-3777 |
| Norfolk | ☎ 757-441-1852 |
| Petersburg | ☎ 804-733-2402 |
| Richmond | ☎ 804-782-2777 |
| Roanoke | ☎ 540-342-6025 |
| Shenandoah Valley | ☎ 540-740-3132 |
| Virginia Beach | ☎ 757-437-4700 |
| Williamsburg | ☎ 757-253-0192 |

# *Accommodations Key*

Accommodations prices in this guide correspond to the following key, and are indicated on a per room, per night basis.

| | |
|---|---|
| $ | Less than $50 |
| $$ | $50-$$100 |
| $$$ | Over $100 |

# *Northern Virginia*

## Alexandria

### *History*

Alexandria is on the west bank of the Potomac River, six miles below Washington DC, and nine miles from Mount Vernon. The city was established by the Virginia Assembly in 1749 and, in July of that year, building lots were auctioned off from the town square. The town was named for Scotsman John Alexander who, in 1669, purchased the land that included the future Alexandria for "six thousand pounds of tobacco and cask."

English General Braddock made his headquarters in Alexandria and occupied the Carlyle House while planning his campaign against the French in 1755.

At the time of the Revolution, Alexandria was one of the principal colonial trading centers and ports. Its political, social and commercial interests were of great importance to the many local residents, especially to its nearby resident, George Washington, in Mount Vernon.

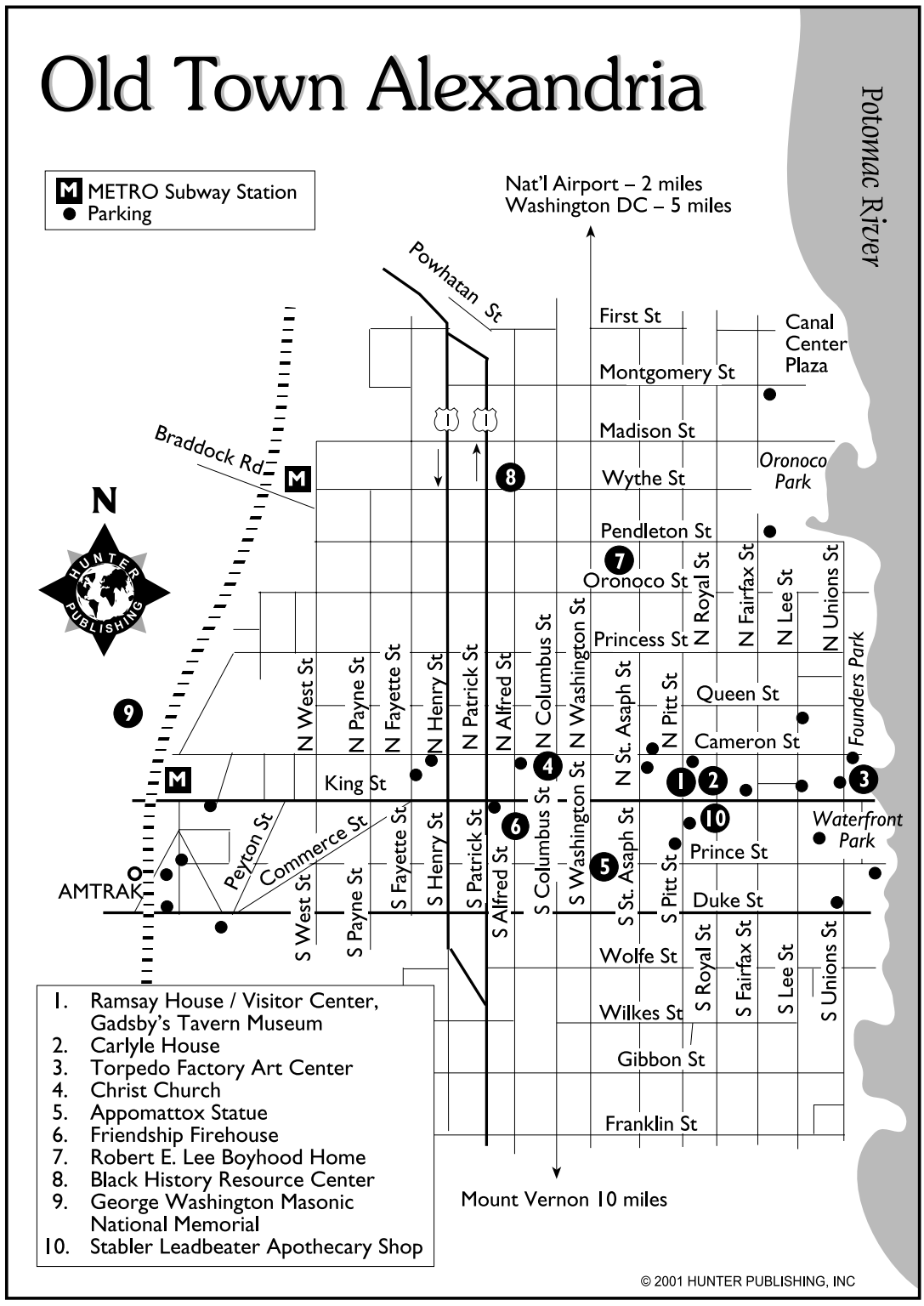
Washington maintained a townhouse in Alexandria, and served as a trustee of the town. He also purchased a pew in Christ Church, and was a Worshipful Master of the Alexandria Masonic Lodge number 22. Records reveal that Washington had numerous social and business connections to the town.

General Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee, a Revolutionary War general and the father of Robert E. Lee, brought his family to Alexandria in 1810. Robert lived there until his departure for West Point in June, 1825.

At the turn of the 19th century, Alexandria was a part of the District of Columbia and, during the years prior to the Civil War, industry grew and flourished and shipping through the Alexandria Canal prospered.

During the Civil War, Alexandria was captured and occupied by Union troops and was a base for operations in Northern Virginia. Troops and supplies were transported to the city via railroad and the port and then dispersed where needed at the front. Wounded soldiers, brought back from the front on trains, crowded the available hospitals and temporary medical facilities in and around the town.

Although Alexandria was a slave trading location prior to the Civil War, it also had several free Black communities. African-American life in the city




flourished with the establishment of churches, social and fraternal organizations and businesses. Many of early Alexandria's African-Americans were skilled artisans.

The Torpedo Factory on the waterfront was built during World War I and was used again during the Second World War as a munitions factory. Before its renovation in the late 1970s and early 1980s, its 10 heavy industrial buildings dominated Alexandria's waterfront. Today, it's an award-

winning example of adaptive reuse and the centerpiece of a lively waterfront community with a marina, shops, public parks and walkways, restaurants, residences and offices.

Alexandria began its historic preservation and urban renewal projects in the 1960s, and all was achieved through the cooperation of citizen activists and local government. The Civil War centennial restoration of the northwest bastion of Fort Ward was the beginning of Alexandria's official protection of its historic sites and landmarks.

Today, the Old Town historic district is known for its many museums, its architecture, special events, fine restaurants and hotels, and other attractions, which draw more than 1.5 million international and domestic visitors to it each year.



## *Sights*

**Ramsay House**, the town's Visitor Center at 221 King Street in Old Town, is the oldest house in Alexandria, built in 1724, and has done service as a tavern, grocery store and cigar factory. Here visitors can obtain an assortment of informational material, including free parking permits, maps, complete listings of restaurants, hotels and tours. They can also purchase "block tickets" good for reduced admission to three of the city's historic properties.

Guided walking tours depart from the Visitor Center during the spring, summer and fall, weather permitting. The center is open daily except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. ☎ 703-838-4200 or visit www.FunSide.com.

**Alexandria African American Heritage Park**, Holland Avenue, ☎ 703-838-4356, features bronze trees and other sculptures honoring African-Americans of Alexandria, past and present.

**Alexandria Archaeology Museum**, 105 N. Union Street, inside the Torpedo Factory Art Center, is where archaeologists piece together the city's history. Open daily except Mondays. ☎ 703-838-4399.

**Alexandria National Cemetery**, Wilkes and Payne streets, was established in 1862 and contains the graves of 3,500 Civil War soldiers.

The **Alexandria Seaport Foundation's Seaport Center** is at the Potomac River waterfront, just south of Founders Park. This floating museum opened in 1999. There is a boat-building program, a marine science lab, a small museum and library, and rental boats. Open daily. ☎ 703-549-7078.

The **Black History Resource Center**, 638 N. Alfred Street, interprets the role of African-Americans in Alexandria's history. The center has many interesting exhibits including photographs, letters, documents and

artifacts. It is open Tuesday through Saturday, except major holidays. ☎ 703-838-4356.

**Boyhood Home of Robert E. Lee**, 607 Oronoco Street, ☎ 703-548-8454. This Federal townhouse was built in 1795 and is furnished with period antiques. Open daily.

**The Carlyle House**, 121 N. Fairfax Street in Old Town Alexandria, is a stately stone mansion built in the Palladian style in 1753. It was the site of a 1755 meeting between General Edward Braddock and five English colonial governors to plan the early campaigns of the French and Indian War. The house is open daily except Mondays, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. ☎ 703-549-2997.

**Christ Church**, at Cameron and N. Washington streets, is well known for its fine Palladian widow, its interior balcony, and its wrought-brass and crystal chandelier, which was brought over from England. The old structure is little changed from the day when it was built in 1773. Both George Washington and General Robert E. Lee were pew holders here. A gift shop and several interpretive exhibits are located at the Columbus Street entrance. The church is open daily except Thanksgiving and New Year's Day. Donations are welcome. For more information, ☎ 703-549-1450.

**Confederate Statue "Appomattox,"** at the intersection of Prince and S. Washington streets, depicts an unarmed soldier facing south and marks the spot where 700 Alexandrians left to fight for the Confederacy on May 24, 1861.

A **farmer's market** is held every Saturday at Market Square from 5 a.m. until 10 a.m. It is the nation's oldest continually operating farmer's market, open since 1749.

**Friendship Fire House**, 107 S. Alfred Street, ☎ 703-838-3891, was built in 1871 and now houses historic firefighting exhibits.

**Fort Ward Museum & Historic Site**, 4301 W. Braddock Road, is an authentically restored Union fort of the Civil War era. The museum presents a number of interesting exhibits including many fine pieces of Civil War memorabilia and artifacts. On a fine day visitors to the fort can also enjoy a picnic in the park. Fort Ward is open daily except Mondays, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. ☎ 703-838-4848.

**Gadsby's Tavern Museum**, 136 N. Royal Street, is a famous old tavern much frequented by George Washington and other patriots. The museum is a combination of two 18th-century buildings and features some interesting colonial architecture. Be sure to try the food at Gadsby's Tavern Restaurant. The museum is open daily except Mondays, major holidays, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. ☎ 703-838-4242.

**George Washington Masonic National Memorial** is at King Street and Callahan Drive. George Washington was perhaps the most promi-

nent American Freemason. The 333-foot-high structure houses a large collection of Washington's belongings, gathered together over many years by members of the Washington family and the Masonic lodge of which he was the first master. Visitors may take a guided tour of a replica of the Alexandria-Washington Lodge's first assembly hall, the museum, and climb to the observation deck high on the top floor for magnificent views of Alexandria and the Potomac River. The memorial is open daily except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. ☎ 703-683-2007.

**The Lee-Fendall House**, 614 Oronoco Street, was built by Philip Richard Fendall and lived in by the Lee family for 120 years. George Washington and Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee were both frequent visitors. The house was remodeled in 1850 and is furnished with many of the Lee family belongings. The house is open daily except Mondays, major holidays, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. ☎ 703-548-1789.

**Lloyd House**, 220 N. Washington Street, one of Alexandria's finest examples of Georgian Architecture, was built in 1797 by John Wise. (Wise also built Gadsby's Tavern.) The first floor is furnished with artifacts and paintings that once belonged to former owners of the property. Today, the house serves as a branch of the Alexandria Public Library. ☎ 703-838-4577.

**The Lyceum**, Alexandria's History Museum, 201 N. Washington Street, was first established as a cultural and scientific center in 1839. Today, the Greek revival building is a museum and information center for Historic Alexandria. The museum is open Monday through Friday, and on Sunday afternoons. ☎ 703-838-4994.

The **Old Presbyterian Meeting House**, 321 S. Fairfax Street, ☎ 703-549-6670, was the site of memorial services for George Washington. Open Monday through Friday.

**The Stabler-Leadbetter Apothecary Shop**, 105-107 S. Fairfax Street, was built in 1792 and houses the country's largest collection of apothecary glassware in an original setting. The original building, now a museum of early pharmacy, offers visitors a unique glimpse into the nation's medical past through a fine collection of old prescriptions, patent medicines, scales and other interesting medical memorabilia. The old shop has served many famous customers, including George Washington, Robert E. Lee, and John Calhoun. It is open daily except Sundays, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. ☎ 703-836-3713.

**Torpedo Factory Art Center**, 105 N. Union Street, is a renovated munitions factory which today houses more than 150 professional artists. There are studios, galleries, a museum, a school, and the Alexandria Archaeological offices located inside the building. The center is open daily except major holidays, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. ☎ 703-838-4565.

## Dressing for the Weather

Springtime in Alexandria is a delightful time of year, with the dogwoods, azaleas and colorful flowering bulbs all in bloom. But the weather can be a little on the chilly side, especially in the evenings. A sweater or jacket is recommended. May and June are usually warm, with temperatures in the 70s and 80s. Wear something cool and comfortable for the hot and humid weather of July and August.

Often a long Indian summer gives way to a cool, crisp autumn, perfect for light woolens. Winters in Alexandria are usually moderate, with only light snowfalls of around one to two inches, although an occasional major storm may occur. January is usually the coldest month, followed by the spring thaw in February.

## *Annual Events*

The **Lee Birthday Celebrations** in January honor "Light Horse Harry" Lee and his son, Robert E. Lee, at 607 and 614 Oronoco Street. ☎ 703-548-8454 04 548-1789.

The **George Washington Birthday Celebrations**, held in February, include a race, Civil War re-enactments, and are climaxed by the birthday parade on the national holiday. ☎ 703-838-4200 or 800-388-9119.

**Home tours**. Many fine colonial and federal-style homes are opened for public viewing during **Historic Garden Week** in April. For more information and tickets, call the Alexandria Visitors Bureau at ☎ 703-838-4200.

**Alexandria Red Cross Waterfront Festival**, held during held in early June, commemorates Alexandria's maritime heritage, and features the "Tall Ships," Blessing the Fleet, river cruises, races, arts and crafts, many exhibits, good food, a fireworks display, and lots of good music. ☎ 703-549-8300.

The **Virginia Scottish Games**, held the fourth weekend in July, is an athletic competition featuring all the old-time traditional Highland Games events, including Highland dance and music, and a display of antique cars. For more information, call the Alexandria Visitors Bureau at ☎ 703-838-4200.

The **Scottish Christmas Walk**, held the first weekend in December, features a parade, a tour of historic homes, concerts, greens and heather sales, and a dinner dance, all emphasizing Alexandria's Scottish origins. ☎ 703-549-0111.

# *Entertainment*

Although Alexandria is only a little more than a stone's throw away from the glittering nightlife offered by the nation's capital, it is well served with a cultural and arts community all its own, including the following.

**The Alexandria Ballet** is in the historic Athenaeum, ☎ 703-548-0035.

**The Alexandria Symphony Orchestra** offers a full program of music and entertainment. For more information and schedules, contact the symphony at PO Box 1035, Alexandria, VA 22313, ☎ 703-845-8005, www.alexsym.org.

**The Little Theater of Alexandria** is at 600 Wolfe Street, ☎ 703-683-5778.

**MetroStage** is located at 3200 Mount Vernon Avenue, ☎ 703-548-9044. Offers a season of productions, staged readings and a children's theater series.

**The West End Dinner Theatre**, 4615 Duke Street, ☎ 703-370-2500, offers fine dining and Broadway musicals, comedies and mysteries.

***The Dandy* Restaurant Cruise Ship**. *The Dandy*, operated by Potomac Party Cruises, is docked at Zero Prince Street. The ship offers gourmet dining, dancing and an unparalleled view of Washington Monument and the nation's capital. ☎ 703-683-6076.

**Headliners & Comedy Club**, ☎ 703-397-HAHA, is located in the Holiday Inn Eisenhower.

**Las Tapas**, 710 King Street, ☎ 703-836-4000, features Flamenco dancers on weekends.

**The Laughing Lizard**, 1322 King Street, offers fine dining, comedy shows and bands. ☎ 703-548-2582.

**The Quarterdeck Lounge (The Wharf)**, 119 King Street, ☎ 703-836-2834, offers good food and nightly entertainment.

# *Shopping*

Alexandria offers the discerning visitor a world of shopping opportunities and something for just about everyone from simply browsing the tiny shops and stores to some very serious shopping at the mall.

More than 250 fine shops and stores are situated at various strategic locations in and around the city. These include antique stores and art galleries, more than a dozen book stores catering to both adults and children, a half-dozen gourmet food shops. In addition, are specialty stores catering to all sorts of needs from diving equipment to fine tobacco. Then, of course, there's the Landmark Center Mall at 5801 Duke Street.

A brochure entitled *A Guide to the Arts and Antiques in Alexandria* is available at the Ramsay House Visitors Center.

## *Dining*

There are more than 200 restaurants in Alexandria, offering innovative menus with international and regional tastes. In most cases, reservations are accepted and are required on Fridays and Saturdays. For a complete listing, visit www.FunSide.com, where you can also search by cuisine. Unless otherwise noted, all restaurants serve lunch and dinner.

**Bilbo Baggins Restaurant**, 208 Queen Street in Old Town Alexandria, ☎ 703-683-0300, offers a continental menu, many varieties of wines and micro-brews. This is an upstairs restaurant in a pre-turn-of-the-century building.

**East Winds Restaurant**, 809 King Street in Old Town Alexandria, ☎ 703-836-1515, serves a Vietnamese menu. Specialties include cha gio, char-broiled shrimp and scallops. The restaurant features original Vietnamese paintings and panels.

**The Fish Market**, 105 King Street at Union Street in Old Town Alexandria, ☎ 703-836-5676, is in a restored 18th-century warehouse. Specialties include seafood, pasta, crab cakes and clam chowder. The restaurant also has a bar. Reservations are accepted.

**Gadsby's Tavern Restaurant**, 138 N. Royal Street, across from the Old Town Hall, ☎ 703-548-1288. The Colonial menu offers Sally Lunn bread; George Washington's favorite, duck; and English trifle. The tavern features Georgian architecture, Colonial decor and strolling minstrels.

**Geranio Ristorante**, 722 King Street in Old Town Alexandria, ☎ 703-548-0088, features rustic Mediterranean decor, a fireplace and ceramic lights. The Northern Italian menu includes seafood, veal, and pasta dishes.

**Il Porto Ristorante**, 121 King Street in Old Town Alexandria, ☎ 703-836-8833, serves Northern Italian cuisine, featuring pasta, chicken, and seafood dishes. Il Porto is in a fine old 18th-century building with a long history.

**Ireland's Own**, 132 Royal Street in Old Town Alexandria, ☎ 703-549-4535 has an Irish-American menu, serving specialties such as lamb and beef stew and corned beef and cabbage. There is entertainment in an Irish pub atmosphere.

**La Bergerie**, 218 N. Lee on the second floor of Crilley Warehouse in Old Town Alexandria, ☎ 703-683-1007, serves Basque cuisine, and specialties of the house include seafood, confit de canard, and their own pastries. The restaurant is located in a restored 1890s warehouse.

**Landini Brothers**, 115 King Street in Old Town Alexandria, ☎ 703-836-8404, offers classic Italian dishes and specialties include seafood, pasta and veal. The restaurant is located in a 1790s building.

**Le Gaulois Café Restaurant**, 1106 King Street in Old Town Alexandria, ☎ 703-739-9494 has a French Country menu that includes rack of lamb, veal, and rabbit. The restaurant features French provincial decor and a fireplace.

**Le Refuge**, 127 N. Washington, in Old Town Alexandria, ☎ 703-548-4661 serves French Country cuisine; specialties include rack of lamb and salmon en croûte.

**Santa Fe East**, 110 S. Pitt Street, ☎ 703-548-6900, has a Southwestern menu. The restaurant is in a historic townhouse and features American Indian artifacts, outdoor dining, and a fountain in the courtyard.

**Scotland Yard**, 728 King Street in Old Town Alexandria, ☎ 703-683-1742, is open for dinner. The menu offers traditional Scottish fare, with lamb, steaks, venison, and quail. The building is an old Scottish tavern built in 1792; it has an interesting fireplace.

**The Seaport Inn**, 6 King Street in Old Town Alexandria, ☎ 703-549-2341, serves seafood and prime beef. The Seaport Inn is in a circa 1765 warehouse overlooking the Potomac River, and was once owned by George Washington's aide-de-camp.

**Taverna Cretekou**, 818 King Street in Old Town Alexandria, ☎ 703-548-8688, offers a Greek menu with specialties of seafood and lamb. The restaurant features Mediterranean decor and a brick patio.

**Two Nineteen Restaurant**, 219 King Street in Old Town Alexandria, ☎ 703-549-1141, features a Creole menu with emphasis on seafood. Jazz is played Tuesday through Saturday. The restaurant is located in a converted private residence, circa 1890, with period millwork, antiques, Victorian paintings and marble fireplaces.

**Union Street Public House**, 121 S. Union Street in Old Town Alexandria, ☎ 703-548-1785, serves up specialties of apple-smoked barbecue pork ribs and linguini with lobster and smoked scallops. The restaurant is located in an old sea captain's house and warehouse, circa 1870.

**Villa D'Este**, 818 N. St. Asaph Street at Montgomery Street, ☎ 703-549-9477, features Northern Italian cuisine.

## *Accommodations*

Most establishments offer both handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms, but be sure to ask when making reservations.

## *Hotels & Motels*

**Alexandria Lodge Old Town**, 700 N. Washington Street, ☎ 703-836-5100. The hotel has 39 rooms, and pets are allowed in rooms. A café is nearby. $$

**Alexandria Suites Hotel**, 420 N. Van Dorn Street, ☎ 703-370-1000 or 800-368-3339, is newly renovated with large suites and fully-equipped kitchens. Free continental breakfast, hospitality tour, shuttle to the Metro, outdoor pool.

**Best Western Old Colony Inn**, 615 First Street, Old Town Alexandria, ☎ 703-739-2222, has 151 rooms; pets are allowed in rooms. Features include coffee in the lobby, bar, an exercise room, meeting rooms, valet service, café, gift shop, and free local and airport transportation. $$

**Comfort Inn-Alexandria**, 5716 S. Van Dorn Street, ☎ 703-922-9200, has 175 rooms. Guests enjoy in-room coffee, free continental breakfast, complimentary shuttle to the Metro, outdoor swimming pool, and fitness room. $$

**Comfort Inn-Landmark**, 6254 Duke Street, Alexandria, ☎ 703-642-3422, has 148 rooms. Coffee is available in the lobby, and there is a free continental breakfast. Amenities include a bar, swimming pool, exercise room, meeting rooms, valet service, and café. $$

**Courtyard by Marriott**, 2700 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, ☎ 703-329-2323, has 176 rooms. Features include coffee in the lobby, bar, swimming pool, an exercise room, meeting rooms, valet service, café. $$-$$$

**DoubleTree Guest Suites**, 100 S. Reynolds Street, ☎ 703-370-9600 or 800-222-TREE. The hotel has 225 kitchen suites, and pets are allowed in rooms. Among the amenities are coffee in the lobby, bar, free continental breakfast, shuttle to the Metro, swimming pool, exercise facilities available, meeting rooms, valet service, café.

**Hampton Inn Alexandria Old Town Area**, 5821 Richmond Highway, ☎ 703-329-1400 or 800-HAMPTON. The hotel has 131 rooms. Features include coffee in the lobby, free continental breakfast, swimming pool, meeting rooms, valet service, café. $$$

**Hilton Alexandra at Mark Center**, 5000 Seminary Road, ☎ 703-845-1010. The hotel has 495 rooms, and offers coffee in the lobby, a bar, swimming pool, exercise facilities, free supervised children's activities, tennis courts, golf privileges, luxury level accommodations, meeting rooms, valet service, café, gift shop, free local and airport transportation. $$$

**Holiday Inn Select-Old Town**, 480 King Street, in Old Town Alexandria, ☎ 703-549-6080. The hotel has 227 room; pets are allowed in rooms. Features include coffee in the lobby, bar, free continental breakfast, swimming pool, exercise facilities, meeting rooms, valet service, café, gift shop, free local and airport transportation. $$$

**Howard Johnson-Olde Town**, 5821 Richmond Highway, ☎ 703-329-1400, has 156 rooms, and pets are allowed in rooms. Guests will find coffee in the lobby, a bar, swimming pool, an exercise room, meeting rooms, valet service, café, free local and airport transportation. $$$

❖ *For more information, or for assistance with reservations, call the* ***Alexandria Hotel Association*** *at ☎ 800-296-1000. For information on bed and breakfasts, the* ***Alexandria & Arlington Bed & Breakfast Network****, ☎ 703-549-3415, makes complimentary reservations.*

**Radisson Plaza Old Town**, 901 N. Fairfax Street, Old Town Alexandria, ☎ 703-683-6000, with 258 rooms, permits pets in rooms. Coffee is available in the lobby, and there is a bar, swimming pool, exercise room, meeting rooms, valet service, café, gift shop, and free local and airport transportation. $$

**Red Roof Inn**, 5975 Richmond Highway, ☎ 703-960-5200, has 115 rooms; pets are allowed. Amenities include coffee in the lobby, free continental breakfast, an exercise room, meeting rooms, valet service, café nearby. $$

**Sheraton Suites Alexandria**, 801 N. St. Asaph Street, ☎ 703-836-4700 or 800-325-3535, has 249 rooms, including two-room suites, an indoor pool, fitness center, restaurant, and free shuttle to Old Town and airport. $$$

**Travelers Motel**, 5916 Richmond Highway, ☎ 703-329-1310. The hotel has 29 rooms, and offers coffee in the lobby and a swimming pool; a café is nearby. $$

### *Bed & Breakfasts / Inns*

**The Morrison House**, 116 S. Alfred Street, in Old Town Alexandria, ☎ 703-838-8000. The inn has 45 rooms. Amenities include afternoon English tea, meeting rooms, bathroom telephones, covered parking, entertainment, bar, health club privileges. The hotel is located in a building from the Federal period, now a European-style inn with individually decorated rooms, a paneled library and a parlor with a fireplace. $$$

## *Transportation & Information*

Alexandria is served by **Ronald Reagan National Airport**, about 10 minutes from Old Town, by **Dulles International Airport**, about 40 minutes away, and by **Baltimore/Washington International Airport**, about one hour away. All major domestic and international carriers service these airports.

Alexandria has its own **Amtrak** station, and is also served by **Metrobus** and its own **DASH** buses.

The **Metro Subway** has four convenient locations: Braddock Road is on the Yellow Line, Eisenhower Avenue is also on the Yellow Line, and King and Van Dorne Streets are both on the Blue Line. Metro Subway hours of operation are from 5:30 a.m. until midnight, Monday through Friday, and from 8:00 a.m. until midnight on Saturday and Sunday. The rush hours are from 5:30 a.m. until 9:30 a.m., and from 3:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.

## Transportation Contact Numbers

- **Metrobus**, ☎ 202-637-7000 (also available for charter).
- **DASH**, ☎ 703-370-DASH (also available for charter).
- **Amtrak**, ☎ 800-USA-RAIL.
- **Metro Subway**, ☎ 202-637-7000.

The **Ramsay House** is Alexandria's official visitors center, and is located in the heart of the historic Old Town. The center is open daily from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m., except Thanksgiving, Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Brochures on Alexandria's historic attractions, special events, walking guides, restaurants, hotels, antique stores, art galleries, and museums are provided by experienced and knowledgeable travel councilors**.**

Free parking passes for out-of-city visitors are available for metered on-street spaces. For more information, contact the **Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association**, 221 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-3209, ☎ 703-838-4200, 800-388-9119 or www.FunSide.com.

# Arlington & Arlington County

Arlington County is on the west bank of the Potomac River, just across from the nation's capital, where it enjoys all the advantages of its close proximity to the center of government and international business. Arlington is an international community; a melting pot where a hundred different languages are spoken, and the streets blaze with the colors of international garb.

Today's Arlington is fired by a powerful economy. Its highly educated workforce is whisked to work on Metro trains. Its businesses thrive in the hospitality, defense, information, telecommunications, computer, technology, and aerospace industries. The world's decision-makers shop, dine, and live in apartments and homes with breathtaking views of the capital and the Potomac. Airplanes bring visitors and business travelers from all points of the compass into Arlington's Ronald Reagan National Airport and nearby Dulles International Airport.

Arlington is home to more than two dozen international companies, with about 10 of them being worldwide corporate headquarters. The Center for European Community Studies offers the resources of the East Coast's official documentation center for the European Community. The US Patent Office eases access to the world's markets. The nation's defenses are well looked after at the Pentagon. All of the world's embassies are located just across the Potomac in the heart of the District of Columbia.

Arlington's many attractions draw millions of visitors from all over the world. Arlington National Cemetery, with its Eternal Flame at the gravesite of President John F. Kennedy, is the most visited of these attractions, followed by Arlington House Robert E. Lee Memorial and the Pentagon.

Just across the river in Washington, in addition to the Kennedy Center, is the Lincoln Memorial, the Smithsonian Institution, the White House, the Capitol, the Washington Monument, the Supreme Court, and many other famous points of interest. And, if that's not enough, many other sites, such as Manassas National Battlefield, the beautiful Shenandoah Valley, Colonial Williamsburg, Historic Fredericksburg, Gettysburg, Harpers Ferry, the grandeur of the Chesapeake Bay, and Baltimore's magnificent Inner Harbor, can all be enjoyed by daytrip.

A short walk across the Roosevelt Bridge to the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts offers visitors an international showcase of music, theater, opera, and dance. Arlington lists some 20 groups that contribute to the area's cultural offerings. These include ballet and contemporary dance companies, opera and choral groups, four theater companies, and a puppet theater. Last, but not least, the Arlington Symphony caps this glittering community of international artists.



## *History*

Arlington's history is one of pride, dating back about 9,000 years. For centuries the Iroquois fished the waters of the Potomac and hunted the immense forests of Virginia's Piedmont region, unaware of the existence of a world beyond the great waters. Then, in 1607, **Captain John Smith**, an English explorer, sailed up the Potomac as far as Little Falls above Arlington. And so it began.

Over the years that followed Smith's epic voyage into what was to become Arlington County, the land along the Potomac was cleared and settled. At first the farms and holdings were small and far between. Then, as wealthy members of the English aristocracy began to see the great potential offered by the New World, great homes and plantations were established. One of the largest landowners in the area in those early times was the Custis family. Its most famous member was Martha Dandridge Custis, who married George Washington in 1759. It was Custis land that, in the late 1790s, became the site of **Arlington House**.

In 1791 much of what is now Arlington was included in Congress's description of the land that would become the nation's capital. The boundaries then included an area some 10 miles on either side, embracing parts of Virginia and Maryland.

In June, 1831, the area's two most influential families were united in a marriage that would change the course of Virginia's history. Mary Ann Randolph Custis married Robert Edward Lee, the son of the famous Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee, and so Robert E. Lee became the master of Arlington House. For 30 years the great house was home to the Lees. Then, one dark day in 1861, on the eve of war, Robert E. Lee declined the US Army's offer to lead it against the forces of the fledgling Confederacy. He chose instead to follow his home state into secession and lead Virginia's forces in the Confederate Army. Mrs. Lee and her family moved out of the house only one step ahead of the Union Armies preparing for the defense of Washington.

During the years of war that followed, Arlington House served as a military headquarters, a hospital, a convalescent camp, and a cemetery: the beginnings of what would become the Arlington National Cemetery.

Finally, the Civil War ended and the area that is now Arlington returned to farming. Then, Fort Myer, the home of the US Army's famous 3rd Infantry, was established. It was there in 1908 that the first airplane passed its endurance test when Orville Wright circled the airfield 57 times.

In 1920, the Virginia General Assembly changed the name of the area from Alexandria County to Arlington County to honor the Custis and Lee family home, and to memorialize its greatest general, Robert E. Lee.

From the end of World War I, the area grew in proportion to the federal government. New population transformed Arlington County from a rural farming community to a bedroom community for the nation's capital. The new residents stimulated housing, services, and business. Soon Arlington was connected to the great city by an electric trolley operated by the Washington Virginia Railway Company. And still Arlington continued to grow. For 20 years between 1920 and 1940 it was the fastest-growing county in Virginia.

From the opening of the Pentagon in 1942, Arlington has become the center of military power in the United States. Since that time, Arlington's economy has expanded to become a diverse and powerful force in the region based on industries predicted to dominate in the years ahead: telecommunications, information, defense, aerospace, computers, and travel.

Today, while Arlington continues to grow, its culture and heritage are still an important part of American history, treasured and protected even as the nation embraces new attitudes and values for the future.

# *Sights*

Like most counties in Northern Virginia, Arlington is blessed with more than its fair share of important and historical attractions. Visitors can plan their own tour of the county, or take one of the guided tours available from operators listed under *Tours* on page 42.

## *Arlington National Cemetery*

The Arlington National Cemetery covers some 612 acres and, while it's not the largest cemetery in the country, it is the most famous.

More than 200,000 veterans and their dependents are buried at Arlington. From Pierre L'Enfant, George Washington's aide during the Revolution, and Johnny Clem, the Drummer Boy of Shiloh, to General Maxwell Taylor, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff during the Vietnam Conflict, there are veterans buried here representing every conflict in which the United States has fought.

The cemetery is, of course, the site of the John F. Kennedy and Robert Kennedy gravesites, as well as the Challenger Space Shuttle Memorial, the Tomb of the Unknowns, and the mast of the *USS Maine*.

Notable civilians buried in the cemetery include Heavyweight Boxing Champion Joe Louis, our 27th President William Howard Taft, and Abner Doubleday, who, in addition to inventing the game of baseball, is credited with having fired the first Union volley at Fort Sumter at the outbreak of the Civil War.

The Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknowns is conducted every hour on the hour from October 1st to March 31, and every half-hour from April 1st to September 30th. While guarding the tomb, the sentinels take 21 steps, before turning and facing the tomb for 21 seconds. This corresponds with America's highest military honor, the 21-gun salute.

Open daily, 8 a.m. until 7 p.m. April through September; and 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. October through April. ☎ 703-607-8052.

At the entrance to Arlington National Cemetery is the **Women in the Military Service for America Memorial**, which honors all women who have served in times of conflict and of peace. An education center and theater tells the history of women in the armed forces, dating from 200 years ago  up to the present. ☎ 703-533-1155 or 800-222-2294.

## *Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial*

Arlington House is on the grounds of the National Cemetery and was the home of General Robert E. Lee, General of the Confederate Army during the Civil War.

The house was built by George Washington Custis, grandson of Martha Washington by her first marriage to Daniel Park Custis, and features

pre-Civil War furnishings, many of which originally belonged to the mansion.

Robert E. Lee married Custis' daughter and lived in the house for more than 30 years. At the outbreak of the Civil War he took his family and left the estate to follow the fortunes of the Confederacy. Wartime law required that property owners in an area occupied by federal troops must appear in person to pay their taxes. Unable to comply with this rule, the Lees saw the estate confiscated in 1864. The land was immediately set aside as a military cemetery. In 1882, however, Robert E. Lee's grandson, George Washington Custis Lee, brought suit against the United States for the return of his property. The suit was successful. However, hundreds of graves covered the land, so he accepted the federal government's offer of $150,000 for the property.

Arlington House is open daily, 9:30 a.m. until 4:40 p.m., except Christmas and New Year's day. For more information, ☎ 703-557-0614. Handicapped access is limited to the first floor of the house.

## *The US Marine Corps Memorial, "Iwo Jima"*

The US Marine Corps Memorial, Iwo Jima, is dedicated to all Marines who have given their lives in defense of the United States from 1775. It was officially dedicated by President Dwight D. Eisenhower on November 11, 1954, the 179th anniversary of the Marine Corps.

The Memorial is the largest cast-bronze statue in the world. It features 32-foot-tall figures erecting a 60-foot-tall bronze flagpole. The M-1 rifle and the carbine carried by two of the figures are 16 and 12 feet long, respectively. The cloth flag flies from the pole 24 hours a day in accordance with a presidential proclamation of June 12, 1961. The sculpture was designed by Felix W. De Weldon, then on duty with the US Navy, from a Pulitzer-prize-winning photograph taken by war correspondent and photographer Joe Rosenthal.

The Marine Corps presents the Marine Sunset Review Parade on Tuesdays from 7 to 8:30 p.m., late May through August. The review is free. ☎ 202-433-4073.

The Memorial is open 24 hours daily, and is on Marshall Drive between Route 50 and Arlington National Cemetery.

## *The Netherlands Carillon*

The 49-bell carillon was presented to the nation by the people of the Netherlands, in gratitude for US aid given during and after the World War II.

The bells are four-fifths copper and one-fifth tin. The largest has a diameter of six feet, nine inches and weighs 12,654 pounds. The smallest is nine inches in diameter and weighs only 37.5 pounds. Verses cast on each bell were written by Dutch poet Ben von Eysslesteijn. The bells are installed in an open steel tower designed by Dutch architect Joost W.C. Boks.

The carillon is tuned to a chromatic scale and covers one more note than four octaves. It is played with an automatic electronic system. Concerts are presented by carillonneurs from around the world on Saturdays and national holidays, April through August. The carillon is on Marshall Drive, next to the Iwo Jima Memorial, between Route 50 and Arlington National Cemetery. ☎ 703-285-2500.

## *The Pentagon*

The Pentagon is, of course, the home of the United States Department of Defense. It is also one of the world's largest office buildings, encompassing some 6.5 million square feet. By comparison, the twin towers of the World Trade Center, the largest commercial office building in the world, cover only 4.37 million square feet. The US Capitol would fit into any one of the five wedge-shaped sections, each of which has exterior walls 921 feet wide. The building was constructed in only 16 months and was completed on January 15, 1943, at a cost of about $83 million.

- *The Pentagon has 8,770 parking spaces in 16 lots, more than 17½ miles of corridors, 131 stairways, 19 escalators, 614 water fountains, 284 restrooms, and 7,754 windows.*

Tours of the Pentagon are conducted every hour on the hour, Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m., except for federal holidays when the building is closed. Visitors *must* present a photo ID, and groups of more than 15 persons must make a reservation. ☎ 703-695-1776.

## *Other Points of Interest*

**The Arlington Historical Society Museum** is housed in a former schoolhouse, now museum, which features Civil War artifacts, 19th-century kitchenware, and ladies' fashions through the years. The museum is at 1805 S. Arlington Ridge Road, and is open Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 1 until 4 p.m., ☎ 703-892-4204.

**The Old Guard Museum** graphically tells the story of the oldest US Army infantry regiment from 1784 right up to the present, and is the only Army museum in the Washington DC, area. The museum is open Monday through Saturday, and on Sunday afternoons. ☎ 703-696-6670. The museum is in Building 249, Sheridan Avenue, Fort Myer, Arlington.

**The Gulf Branch Nature Center** is situated in a 37-acre wooded valley and offers interpretive exhibits that include an 1871 hand-hewn log house and a forge operated by the Blacksmith's Guild of the Potomac. The nature center is open Tuesday through Saturday, and on Sunday afternoons, but is closed on Mondays and national holidays. For more information, contact the nature center at 3608 N. Military Road, Arlington, ☎ 703-228-3403.

The 100-acre **Potomac Overlook Regional Park** is located along the banks of the Potomac River. It offers visitors a quiet day out walking the nature trails through stands of towering oak trees and tulip poplars. The park's nature center features many archaeological and wildflower exhibits, as well as magnificent views of the nation's capital, its skyline, and the Washington Monument. The park is open daily from dawn until dusk, the nature center, Tuesday through Saturday, and on Sunday afternoons. ☎ 703-528-5406. The park is at 2845 N. Marcey Road (off Military Road), Arlington.

**The Newseum** is a unique place that takes visitors into the world of the news. The 72,000-square-foot museum is funded by the Freedom Forum, a foundation dedicated to free press. Open 10 a.m. until 5 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday. Free admission. Located at 1100 Wilson Boulevard, ☎ 703-284-3700.

**Freedom Park** features the Freedom Forum Journalists Memorial, dedicated to journalists who died in the line of duty. There is also an exhibit on news pioneers and icons in the struggle for freedom around the world. Located on the overpass between 1100 and 1101 Wilson Boulevard.

**The Patent & Trademark Museum** features famous and not-so-famous inventors. Open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. 2121 Crystal Drive in the Crystal Park Building, ☎ 703-305-8341.

## *Tours*

**The Pentagon** offers an escorted walking tour of the headquarters for the US Department of Defense and the largest federal office building in the world. Free tours are offered every hour, on the hour, from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m., Monday through Friday. Closed all federal holidays. Be sure to bring photo ID. ☎ 703-695-1776.

**Tourmobile Sightseeing** offers daily narrated tours authorized by the National Park Service. There are 21 stops in Washington DC, and four in Arlington National Cemetery. There are also tours of Arlington National Cemetery daily. Board at the red, white and blue signs along the route. ☎ 202-554-5100 or visit www.tourmobile.com.

## *Annual Events*

Whatever time of year you decide to visit Arlington, there's always something interesting to see and do. The following is but a partial list of the traditional annual events. For a more complete list, including special events, contact the **Arlington Convention & Visitors Bureau**, 1400 N. Uhle Street, Suite 102, Arlington, VA 22201, ☎ 703-358-5720.

**The US Army Band Concert Series** is held during March on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at Brucker Hall, Fort Myer, Arlington. ☎ 703-696-3399.

**The National Cherry Blossom Festival**, held in early April celebrates the blooming of more than 6,000 Japanese cherry trees around Washington's monuments. Week-long activities include lantern lighting ceremonies, concerts, art exhibits, a 10K race, and a boat cruise and parade. ☎ 202-728-1137.

**Easter Sunrise Service** is held in the Arlington National Cemetery Memorial Amphitheater. Free shuttle from the visitors center parking lot starting at 5:30 a.m. ☎ 703-695-4584.

**Tourism Month in Arlington** is held in May with various activities and events throughout the county. ☎ 800-677-6267.

**Taste of Arlington** is held in mid-May in the Shirlington section. Offers samples of foods from area restaurants, with proceeds going to charity. ☎ 703-908-9826.

A **Memorial Day Service** is held at Arlington National Cemetery. The President of the United States lays a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns. ☎ 202-685-2851.

**Arlington Arts Al Fresco** is a summer-long series of outdoor arts performances. ☎ 703-228-6966 for schedules.

**Marine Corps Tuesday Evening Sunset Parades** are held from late May through late August at the Iwo Jima Memorial in Arlington. ☎ 202-433-4073.

**Arlington County Fair**, held in August, is a county-wide arts and crafts fair featuring international foods and children's activities. It is held at Thomas Jefferson Center, 3501 S. 2nd Street, Arlington. ☎ 703-228-6400.

**Rosslyn Jazz Festival** is held in Gateway Park in the Rosslyn section of Arlington in early September. ☎ 703-522-6628.

**The Marine Corps Marathon**, held in late October, attracts thousands of world-class runners. It begins at the US Marine Corps Memorial in Arlington. ☎ 703-690-3431.

## *Entertainment*

The following is a partial list of venues in the area.

**Arena Stage** is at 6th and Maine Avenue, SW, Washington DC, ☎ 202-488-4380.

**Thomas Jefferson Theatre**, S. 2nd Street, Arlington, ☎ 703-228-6960 or the Arts Hotline at ☎ 703-228-6966.

**Gunston Arts Center**, 2700 S. Lang Street, Arlington, ☎ 703-228-6960.

**The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts** includes the Opera House, Eisenhower Theatre, the Concert Hall, the Terrace Theatre, the Theatre Lab, and the American Film Institute. 2700 F Street, NW, Washington DC, ☎ 202-444-1324.

**The National Theatre** is at 1321 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington DC, ☎ 202-628-6161 or 800-233-3123.

**The Shakespeare Theatre** is at 450 7th Street, NW, Washington DC, ☎ 202-393-2700.

**Signature Theater** is at 3806 South Four Mile Run Drive, Arlington, ☎ 703-218-6500.

**Teatro De La Luna** is at 2700 S. Lang Street, Arlington, ☎ 703-548-3092. This is Arlington's Spanish-language theater. Performances are given in Spanish with simultaneous English translation at various locations; be sure to call ahead.

**The Washington Shakespeare Company** makes its home at 601 S. Clark Street, Arlington. ☎ 703-418-4808.

**Warner Theatre**, 1299 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington DC, ☎ 202-628-1818.

## *Shopping*

The national capital area offers its visitors many fine malls, small boutiques, and splendid shops, along with upscale stores, outlet malls, and historic districts which George Washington is known to have frequented. But Arlington has some fine shopping of its own, with several large malls and dozens of small specialty shops.

**Ballston Common**, on North Glebe Road and Wilson Boulevard in Arlington, is just one block from the Metro's Ballston Station on the Orange Line. There are 100 specialty stores on four floors, and an international food court on the ground floor. The mall hours are from 10 a.m. until 9:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and from noon until 6 p.m. on Sundays. ☎ 703-243-8088.

**Crystal City Shops**, 1608 Crystal Square Arcade in Arlington, ☎ 703-892-4680, features an underground plaza with a unique collection of more than 125 specialty shops and stores. The food court has cafés and restaurants offering a variety of fine food to suit every palate, all at reasonable prices. Shopping hours are 10 a.m. until 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday; some stores are open on Sundays. The underground shops are open from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m., Monday through Friday. Take Metro's Blue and Yellow lines. Crystal City Arcade is a short walk from the Crystal City Station.

**The Fashion Centre at Pentagon City** is at 1100 S. Hayes Street, Arlington, on Metro's Blue and Yellow Lines, connected to the Pentagon City Station. This four-story shopper's extravaganza features 130 stores anchored by Nordstrom's and Macy's. There's a sunlit food court and six movie theaters, and Mall hours are from 10 a.m. until 9:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m. on Sundays. ☎ 703-415-2400.

**The Village at Shirlington** is at 2700 S. Quincy Street in Arlington. This is a main street shopping area where you can spend the day wandering in and out of the stores, then catch a movie, followed by a wonderful meal at any one of the dozen or more restaurants that line the avenue. Shopping hours vary from store to store, but you can get more information by calling ☎ 703-379-0007.



## *Dining*

The list of fine restaurants that follows is representative of the more than 500 in the area. For a complete listing, visit **www.stayarlington.com**, where you can search by cuisine or area. Unless otherwise noted, all restaurants are open for both lunch and dinner, but closed on major holidays.

**Alpine**, 4770 Lee Highway, Arlington, ☎ 703-528-7600, accepts reservations and offers an Italian and continental menu. Offerings include veal, pasta, and seafood.

**The Carlyle Grand Café**, 4000 S. 28th Street, Arlington, ☎ 703-931-0777, specializes in Virginia trout with potato crust, Canadian baby back ribs, and smoked salmon filet. Outdoor dining. Reservations accepted.

**The Grill**, at the Ritz Carlton in Pentagon City, Arlington, ☎ 703-415-5000, is open for dinner daily. Reservations are accepted, required on Friday and Saturday. The restaurant offers an American menu and features a bar and wine cellar; a pianist provides music on the weekends.

**Fuji**, 77 N. Glebe Road, Arlington, ☎ 703-524-3666, offers Korean dishes such as bibimbap, fried dumplings, and bul goki, and also has a sushi bar. Reservations are accepted, required on Fridays and Saturdays. Closed on January 1.

**Kabul Caravan**, 1725 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, ☎ 703-522-8394, features Afghan cuisine, with specialites such as sautéed pumpkin with yogurt and meat sauce, and eggplant and spinach kebabs. The walls are hung with Afghan clothing, pictures and rugs. Reservations accepted.

**Petitbon's Rosslyn**, 1911 N. Ft. Myer Drive, Arlington, ☎ 703-527-7501, has grilled burgers and ribs. Reservations accepted.

**Queen Bee**, 3181 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, ☎ 703-527-3444, offers Vietnamese dishes such as Hanoi beef noodle soup and Hanoi-style grilled pork.

**Red Hot & Blue**, 1600 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, ☎ 703-276-7427, is open for dinner and has a bar. The restaurant specializes in Memphis pit barbecue dishes.

**The Tivoli**, 1700 N. Moore Street, Arlington, ☎ 703-524-8900, offers an à la carte Italian menu and specializes in pasta and seafood. Parking is available. Reservations accepted.

**Tom Sarris' Orleans House**, 1213 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, ☎ 703-524-2929, features prime rib, steak, and salad bar. The family-owned restaurant has a New Orleans atmosphere with fountains, iron railings and Tiffany lamps. Parking is available. Reservations accepted.

**Woo Lae Oak**, 1500 Joyce Street, on the grounds of the River House complex in Arlington, ☎ 703-521-3706. Open for lunch and dinner. Reservations accepted. The menu offers Korean cuisine. Specialties of the house include barbecued dishes prepared at your table. Parking is available.

## *Accommodations*

Most establishments offer both handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms, but be sure to ask when making reservations.

### *Hotels & Motels*

**Arlington Hilton**, 950 N. Stafford Street, Arlington, ☎ 703-528-6000. 209 rooms. Among the amenities are cable TV, room service, meeting rooms, valet service, gift shop, luxury level, exercise room, café, pool with lifeguard, and parking. Complimentary continental breakfast. $$$

**Best Western Key Bridge**, 1850 Fort Myer Drive, Arlington, ☎ 703-522-0400. 177 rooms. Facilities include a pool with lifeguard, cable TV and parking. $$$

**Cherry Blossom Travelodge**, 3030 Columbia Pike, Arlington, ☎ 703-521-5570. 76 rooms. Amenities include cable TV, café, valet service and parking. Free continental breakfast. $$

**Comfort Inn Ballston**, 1211 N. Glebe Road, Arlington, ☎ 703-247-3399. 126 rooms. It offers cable TV, room service, a restaurant, bar, meeting rooms, valet service, a gift shop and garage parking. $$-$$$

**Crowne Plaza**, 1489 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22202. ☎ 703-416-1600. 306 rooms. The hotel has a pool with lifeguard, cable TV, room service, meeting rooms, valet service, free airport transportation and parking. $$-$$$

**Crystal City Courtyard by Marriott**, 2899 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, ☎ 703-549-3434. 272 rooms. It features an indoor pool with lifeguard, cable TV, room service, a bar, a café, meeting rooms, valet service, an exercise room, free airport transportation and parking. $$$

**Crystal City Marriott**, 1999 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, ☎ 703-413-5500. 340 rooms. Amenities include a pool with lifeguard, cable TV, room service, restaurant, meeting rooms, valet service, an exercise room, free airport transportation and parking. $$-$$$

**Crystal Gateway Marriott**, 1700 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, ☎ 703-920-3230. 694 rooms. It features a pool with lifeguard, cable TV, room service, meeting rooms, valet service, an exercise room, free airport transportation and parking. $$-$$$

**Doubletree Hotel National Airport**, 300 Army/Navy Drive, Arlington, ☎ 703-416-4100. 632 rooms. Complimentary continental breakfast. Features include an indoor pool with lifeguard, cable TV, room service, a bar, two restaurants, meeting rooms, valet service, an exercise room, free airport transportation and parking. $$-$$$

**Embassy Suites**, 1300 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, ☎ 703-979-9799. 267 suites. Among the amenities are a pool with lifeguard, cable TV, room service, a bar, a café, meeting rooms, and an exercise room, and there is free airport transportation and parking. $$$

**Hilton Crystal City at National Airport**, 2399 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, ☎ 703-418-6800. 386 rooms. Among the amenities are a pool with lifeguard, cable TV, room service, meeting rooms, valet service, a luxury level, an exercise room, free airport transportation and parking. There is a complimentary continental breakfast. $$$

**Holiday Inn National Airport**, 2650 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, ☎ 703-684-7200. 280 rooms. There is cable TV, room service, a bar, a restaurant, a gift shop, an exercise room, free airport transportation and parking. $$-$$$

**Holiday Inn Rosslyn**, 1900 N. Fort Myer Drive, Arlington, ☎ 703-807-2000. 308 rooms. It has an indoor pool with a lifeguard, cable TV, meeting rooms and parking. $$-$$$

**Hyatt Arlington**, 1325 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, ☎ 703-525-1234. 302 rooms. Amenities include cable TV, room service, a bar, a café, meeting rooms, valet service, an exercise room and parking. $$$

**Hyatt Regency Crystal City**, 2799 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, ☎ 703-418-1234. 685 rooms. Among the amenities are a pool with lifeguard, cable TV, room service, a restaurant, meeting rooms, valet service, free airport transportation and parking. $$$

**Key Bridge Marriott**, 1401 Lee Highway, Arlington, ☎ 703-524-6400. 584 rooms. This large luxury hotel features a pool with lifeguard, cable

TV, room service, meeting rooms, valet service, an exercise room and parking. $$$

**Quality Hotel & Suites**, 1200 N. Courthouse Road, Arlington, ☎ 703-524-4000. 392 rooms. The hotel offers a bar, pool with lifeguard, cable TV, room service, meeting rooms, valet service, exercise room and parking. $$-$$$

**Quality Inn Iwo Jima**, 1501 Arlington Boulevard, Arlington, ☎ 703-524-5000. 141 rooms. Features include a heated pool with lifeguard, poolside service, cable TV, room service, bar, café, meeting rooms, valet service, gift shop and parking. $$

**The Ritz-Carlton at Pentagon City**, 1250 S. Hayes Street, Arlington, ☎ 703-415-5000. 345 rooms. Amenities include a café, pool with lifeguard, cable TV, room service, meeting rooms, valet service, gift shop, luxury level, exercise room and parking. Complimentary continental breakfast. $$$

**Sheraton Crystal City**, 1800 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, ☎ 703-486-1111. 218 rooms. This Sheraton has a pool with lifeguard, cable TV, room service, meeting rooms, valet service, exercise room and parking. $$-$$$

**Sheraton National**, Columbia Pike and Washington Boulevard, Arlington, ☎ 703-521-1900. 417 rooms. Amenities include a pool with lifeguard, cable TV, room service, meeting rooms, valet service, exercise room, free airport transportation and parking.

## *Tips For Visiting Sights in the DC Area*

The following are some useful tips and information that should help make your visit to Arlington and the capital area more enjoyable.

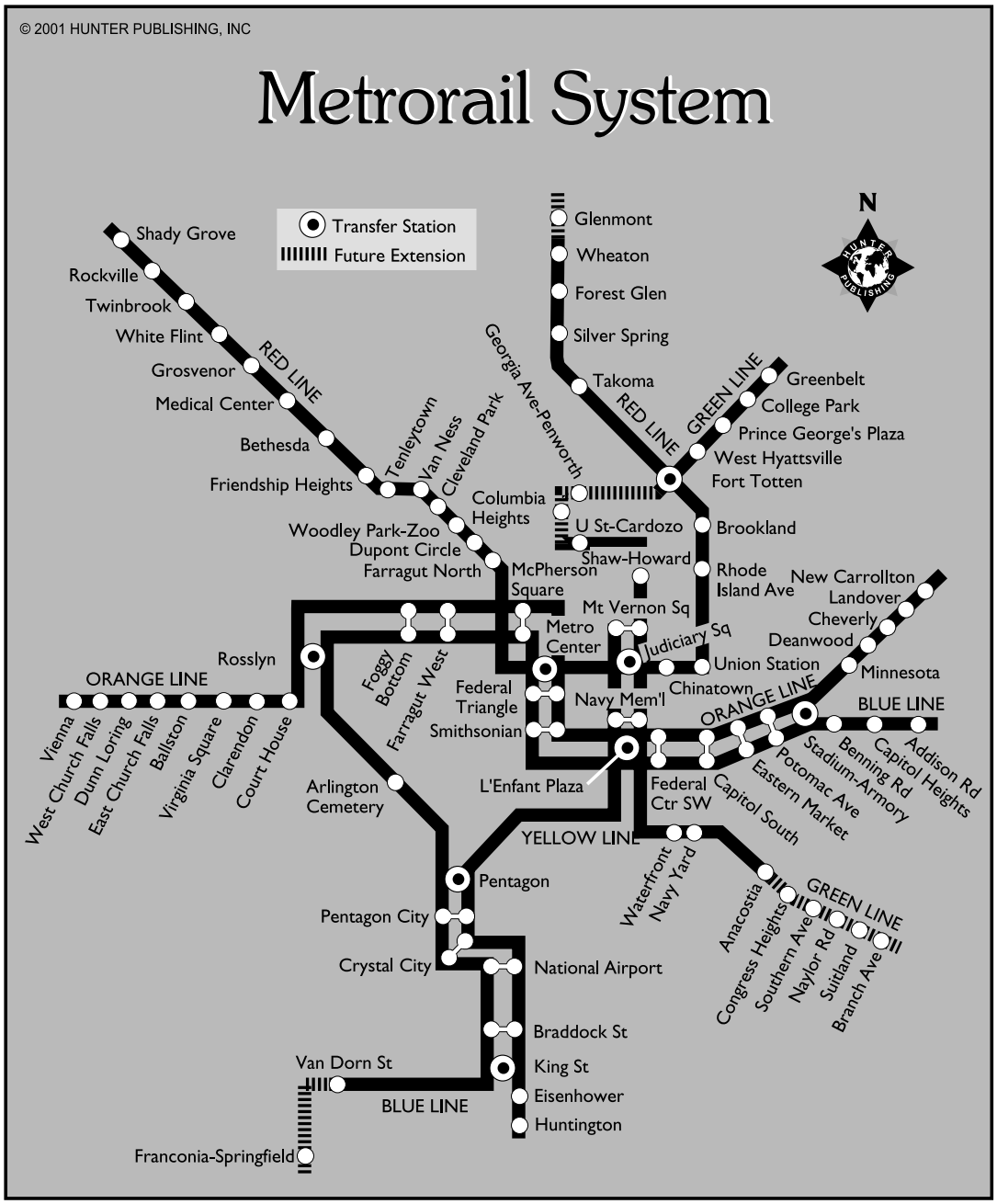
**The Smithsonian Institution museums:** To avoid crowds at the museums on the Mall (Air and Space Museum, Natural History, etc.), try to visit just after they open at 10 a.m., or after 5 p.m. (depending on seasonal hours). The museums become very crowded from just before lunch through the afternoon. You might try museums that are not on the Mall (the National Building Museum, the National Portrait Gallery, etc.) during the afternoons. For a good introduction to the Smithsonian museums, visit the Castle, which opens one hour before the museums at 9 a.m.

**Monuments and Memorials:** Visit monuments and memorials in the evening. They are very attractive when lit up and are much less crowded. The Washington Monument is open until midnight, and is less crowded after 6 p.m. Arlington National Cemetery is open until 7 p.m., and is less crowded in the early evenings.

❖ *We suggest you leave your vehicle at your hotel and take advantage of DC's mass transit system – one of the finest in the world. Metrorail and Metro bus offer the fastest, cheapest way to get around, and they allow you to avoid the hassles of traffic congestion and limited parking.*

## *Transportation*

The **Metrorail subway system** is clean, safe, and efficient. The trains are quiet, comfortable, and reliable. There's a Metrorail station within an easy walk from all major points of interest in the DC area, including the White House, Arlington National Cemetery, the US Capitol, the Smithsonian Institution, the National Zoo, and more.



- *All Metrorail stations and trains are handicapped-accessible.*

Metrorail stations are marked above ground with brown pylons bearing a white "M." Take the escalators below ground to the open areas where you can purchase your farecard. Fares are determined by how far you travel; most destinations from or within Arlington will cost one dollar. Use your farecard to pass through the faregates and onto the train platforms.

The trains follow various routes designated by color. On the front of the train you will be able to read what color line that particular train is following.

- ***Rush Hours:*** *To avoid crowded conditions, do not use the roads and Metrorail from 6:30 to 9 a.m., or from 3:30 to 6 p.m. on weekdays.*

The **Metro Bus system** is also easy and inexpensive. Check with the front desk of your hotel for schedules and bus numbers, or ☎ 202-637-7000 to find out how to get anywhere in the DC area. Just tell them where you are, where you want to go, and when you want to get there. They will tell you exactly how to do it and which buses to use.

Smoking is not permitted on escalators, elevators, in stations, on trains or buses.

- *During the summer, the city is filled with visitors on weekends. DC is much less crowded during January and February, when the weather is generally moderate and accommodations are offered at bargain prices.*

## *Information*

For visitor and tourist information, contact the **Arlington Convention & Visitors Service** at 735 S. 18th Street, Arlington, ☎ 703-228-5720 or 800-677-6267. It's located just two blocks from the Pentagon City Metrorail station and is open daily from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Be sure to ask for a free copy of the *Arlington and Washington DC Visitor's Guide,* or visit the Web site at www.stayarlington.com.

# Culpeper & Culpeper County

Situated in the rolling hills of the Piedmont, Culpeper County rises from an elevation of 300 feet on the eastern side to some 600 feet on the west. Bounded by the Rapidan River to the south, and the Rappahannock River to the north, the entire area is well served and watered by

these and a multitude of other small rivers, creeks, and streams. The climate is moderate, with mean annual temperatures of 35° in January and a balmy 76° in July. The annual precipitation averages about 41 inches. As long ago as 1749, George Washington, during his survey of the area, declared Culpeper a "high and pleasant situation." It hasn't changed.

Culpeper is an area of great growth, but one that keeps an eye on its historical roots and lifestyle. Situated as it is, Culpeper is blessed with an excellent location in the middle of a box consisting of Virginia's four main interstate highways. US Highway 29 runs right through the town and county, and there are four airports, two of them international, within a hundred miles.

- *Author Norman Crampton listed Culpeper in his book,* The 100 Best Small Towns in America*, in 1993.*

Whatever your passion – the great outdoors, history, horses, or simply a quiet day or two away from the hustle and bustle of city life – you will find it in Culpeper.



## *History*

Culpeper County is a large tract of land separated from Orange County by an Act of the Virginia House of Burgesses in 1748. Culpeper convened its first county court on May 17, 1749. The original county boundary included not only Culpeper as we know it today, but also Madison County, severed from Culpeper in 1792, and Rappahannock County, cut off in 1831.

The county was named for Lord Thomas Culpeper, the Colonial Governor of Virginia from 1680 until 1683. He inherited his rights from his father, Lord John Culpeper, to whom the English King Charles II had given a large land grant.

Thomas Culpeper's holdings, including all of the Northern Neck territory, were inherited by his daughter Catherine, who married Lord Thomas Fairfax. Their son, the sixth Lord Fairfax, inherited the property and it was for him that the town of Culpeper, first called Fairfax, was named. Lord Fairfax's Virginia estate, comprising some 5,282,000 acres – that's right, 5.2 million – was confiscated by the colonists when the Revolutionary War began.

In the Culpeper courthouse, on October 21, 1765, 16 of the 20 members of Culpeper County Court, all holding commissions as Justices of the Peace from King George III, resigned and relinquished their commissions in protest of the Stamp Act. Nine years later the citizens of Culpeper held a mass meeting during which they fiercely condemned the English Parliament and pledged themselves to defend their rights with their "lives and fortunes."

At the Virginia convention held in May, 1775 in Richmond, the colony was divided into 16 districts. Each district was instructed to raise and discipline a battalion of men "to march at a minute's notice." The district, including Culpeper, Fauquier and Orange counties, raised a force of 350 men called the **Culpeper Minute Men**. They first organized on July 17, 1775, under a large oak tree in "Clayton's old field," and then took part in the Battle of Great Bridge, the first Revolutionary battle fought on Virginia soil. The Culpeper Minute Men battle flag is inscribed with the words, "Liberty or Death" and "Don't Tread on Me."

Eighty-five years later, as the nation moved inevitably toward civil war, the Culpeper Minute Men were reorganized under the rattlesnake flag. The company staff, in 1860, assembled under the same old oak tree as did the original Minute Men of 1775. When the Civil War broke out, the men of Culpeper were mustered into the Confederate army as Company B, 13th Virginia Infantry Regiment. Other Confederate Culpeper units included the Little Fork Rangers and the Brandy Rifles.

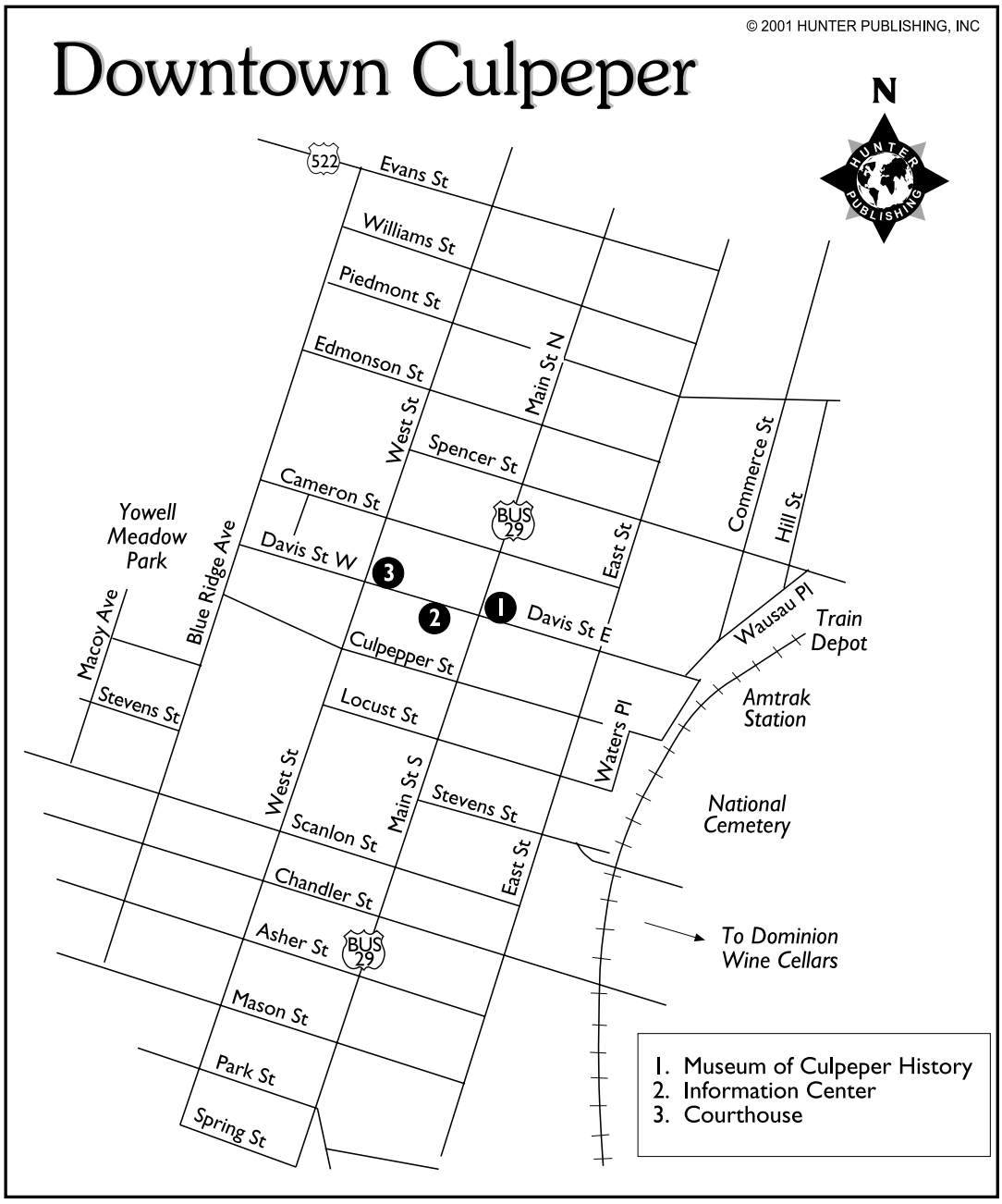
Culpeper County saw a great deal of action during the four years that the Civil War ravaged the Virginia countryside. Armies of both sides marched back and forth across the county, camped, and fought within the boundaries of the county line. Most notable of the many engagements fought on Culpeper soil were the great battles of Cedar Mountain, a resounding victory for Confederate General Robert "Stonewall" Jackson over General John Pope's Union Army of Virginia, and Brandy Station, the largest cavalry engagement on the North American Continent; more than 10,000 Union horse soldiers under the command of General Alfred Pleasonton engaged some 9,000 men of Confederate General James Ewell Brown "Jeb" Stuart's cavalry division. The Union army was eventually driven off after more than 12 hours of fighting, but it was the first time that Federal cavalry had been able to match the Confederate horsemen in skill and determination.

After the Civil War ended, and the troops of both armies had all gone home, Culpeper County returned to its sleepy ways, and life continued much as it had for more than a hundred years. The first public school opened in 1871, the telephone arrived in Culpeper in 1891, and the population began to increase. In 1970, the census set the county population at 18,218; by 1996 it had grown to 31,700.

## *Sights & Entertainment*

Culpeper, for the small community that it is, is well blessed with culture and entertainment.

The **Bluemont Concert Series** presents a diverse range of concerts, country dances and special events, and serves as an artistic resource for area schools. ☎ 540-825-5011.




**The Museum of Culpeper History**, located in downtown Culpeper, has brought together more than 250 years of Culpeper's past. Most of the exhibits were donated to the museum by local people dedicated to preserving the heritage of the town. Exhibits in the museum include a slab of stone with dinosaur tracks, Indian axes, Civil War memorabilia, and the Guinn collection of black and white photographs. The museum is open year-round, Monday through Saturday, from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m.; closed major holidays. For more information, contact the museum at 140 E. Davis Street, Culpeper, VA 22701, or ☎ 540-829-1749.

**The Dominion Wine Cellars** are located on Winery Avenue, two miles south of Culpeper off Virginia Highway 3. Visitors can tour the facility and taste the wine. For more information, contact the Dominion Wine Cellars, 1 Winery Avenue, Culpeper, VA 22701, ☎ 540-825-8772.

**The Prince Michel de Virginia Vineyard & Restaurant** is 10 miles south of Culpeper on Route 29 south. The facility has a wine museum, a shop and a restaurant, and offers daily tours and wine tastings from 10 a.m., until 6 p.m. ☎ 540-547-3707 or 800-869-8242.

# Recreation

Watersports – fishing, swimming, boating, water skiing, sailing, and canoeing – are all available on both the Rappahannock and the Rapidan rivers, and on Lake Pelham and Mountain Run Lake. Mountain Run Lake also offers hiking, picnicking, and a playground for the children.

## Natural Areas

**The Yowell Meadow Park**, on Blue Ridge Avenue, is one of the best-utilized recreational facilities in the Culpeper area. The well-maintained facility includes almost 20 acres of parkland and a plethora of amenities, including fitness trails, tennis and basketball courts, football, soccer and baseball fields, playgrounds and picnic areas. ☎ 540-727-3412.

**Commonwealth Park** is one of the finest equestrian centers in the Eastern United States. The facility boasts a busy, year-round calendar of events that draws competitors and spectators from all over the country, offering something for horse lovers of every persuasion. 13256 Commonwealth Parkway, Culpeper, ☎ 540-825-7469.

**Rappahannock River Campground** offers whitewater adventures, canoeing, kayaking, tubing and fishing. 33017 River Mill Road, Richardsville, ☎ 800-784-PADL.

**Hazel Lake Park**, in Elkwood, is a privately-owned recreational park with a sandy beach, barbecues and special events, ☎ 540-399-1450.

The **Parks & Recreation Department**, ☎ 540-727-3412, operates several parks, tennis courts and playing fields.

## Golf

Golfers can play at **Meadows Farms Golf Course** in Locust Grove, ☎ 540-854-9890; **Somerset Golf Club** in Locust Grove, ☎ 540-423-1500; and **South Wales Golf Course** in Jeffersonton, ☎ 540-937-3250.

# Annual Events

**Culpeper Day** is held the first Saturday in May, ☎ 540-825-7768. Crafts, games, food and music on Davis Street in downtown Culpeper.

**CulpeperFest** is the second Thursday in June, ☎ 540-825-8628, held at Willow Run Company, with food, entertainment and more than 100 exhibits and displays.

The **Bluemont Concert Series** is offered every Friday during July and August, ☎ 540-825-5011. A variety of music – country, big band and folk – is performed.

The **Fourth of July Festival** is held July 4, ☎ 540-825-1093. During the day, downtown Culpeper hosts sports tournaments and a car and motorcycle show. In the evening, the party moves to Yowell Meadow Park, with craft and food vendors, hot air balloon rides, dancing, live music and, of course, fireworks.

A **Holiday Open House** is scheduled for the Sunday before Thanksgiving at the shops and restaurants of historic downtown Culpeper. Street entertainment, caroling and carriage rides, all from noon to 5 p.m., ☎ 540-825-4416.

The **Historic Home Christmas Tour** is the first Saturday in December, ☎ 540-825-8300. Privately owned homes in the historic district are open to ticket-holders for a Victorian Christmas celebration.



## *Shopping*

Culpeper also has some fine shops, and the local business community strives to please customers. The town has a thriving community of antique dealers, boutiques, tiny shops, a busy farmer's market, several department stores, and five shopping centers, including **MinuteMan Mall** with more than 200 dealers, and the **downtown district** of Culpeper itself.

## *Dining*

Culpeper dining offers something tasty for just about everyone. Small cafés, delis, and restaurants, many located in downtown Culpeper, offer plenty of choices, from elegant restaurants to family-style dining.

Here is a sampling:

**Aberdeen Barn**, **Holiday Inn**, Business 29 South, Culpeper, ☎ 540-825-1037. Open seven days a week for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Steakhouse, seafood, lunch and breakfast buffet.

**Double D Restaurant**, 825 James Madison Highway, Culpeper, ☎ 540-825-0136.

**Hazel River Inn**, 195 East Davis Street, Culpeper, ☎ 540-825-7148, www.hazelriverinn.com. Open for lunch and dinner, closed Wednesdays and Sunday evenings. Located in a 1750s building that has housed a hardware store, tobacco barn and stables during different eras. The basement pub was used as a jail in the Civil War. Continental cuisine. Decorated with antiques and local artwork, all of it for sale.

**It's About Thyme**,128 East Davis Street, Culpeper, ☎ 540-825-4264. Serves lunch and dinner in a historic building from Tuesday through Saturday. European country cuisine.

**Jenners Family Restaurant**, 306 South Main Street, Culpeper, ☎ 540-825-4222. Open seven days a week for breakfast and lunch in a former telephone building. American cuisine, with a great breakfast menu.

**Lord Culpeper Restaurant**, 401 South Main Street, Culpeper, ☎ 540-829-6445. In the old Culpeper Hotel. Lunch and dinner seven days a week; Sunday brunch. Caribbean cuisine.

**Serendipity Grill**, 609 Meadowbrook Shopping Center, Culpeper, ☎ 540-825-5659. Open for lunch and dinner Monday through Saturday, serving sandwiches, hamburgers and salads.

## *Accommodations*

Most establishments offer both handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms, but be sure to ask when making reservations.

### *Hotels & Motels*

**The Comfort Inn**, 890 Willis Lane, Culpeper, ☎ 540-825-4900, is a modern, two-story motel. 49 rooms. Pets are allowed in the rooms, and there's a swimming pool and cable TV. Free continental breakfast. $$

**The Holiday Inn**, US Business 29, Culpeper. 159 rooms. There is a dining room and café, entertainment, cable TV, swimming pool, wading pool, several meeting rooms, valet service, and a coin-operated laundry. $$

### *Bed & Breakfasts / Inns*

**The Fountain Hall Bed and Breakfast** is at 609 S. East Street, ☎ 540-825-8200. This Greek-revival house in the downtown historic district has been converted into an exclusive bed and breakfast inn that offers an intimate, homey experience in a non-smoking atmosphere. The house is handicapped-accessible, has four guest rooms and two suites, all with private bath. A free continental breakfast is provided, which includes fresh-baked croissants. $$-$$$

**Hazel River Inn**, 11227 Eggbornsville Road, Culpeper, ☎ 540-937-5854, has three guest rooms, one with private bath. This 100-year-old home offers fine dining and lodging in a romantic setting. There is an outdoor pool, spa, sunroom and fireplaces. $$-$$$

**The Suites at Prince Michel Vineyard**, US Route 29, Leon, ☎ 540-547-9720 or 800-800-WINE, offers four suites, breakfast included, right on the grounds of the vineyard. $$$

**Thistle Hill Bed & Breakfast**, 5541 Sperryville Pike, Boston, ☎ 540-987-9142 or 800-469-0467, has five rooms, all with private baths. Some have canopy beds and sitting rooms. Dinner is available, and guests have the use of a hot tub, all-terrain bicycles, horseshoes and croquet. $$$

### *Camping*

**Cedar Mt. Campground**, 20114 Camp Road, Culpeper, ☎ 540-547-3374 or 800-234-0968. Open year-round with 61 RV and tent sites. There is a pavilion, store with propane and firewood, game room, stocked fishing pond and playing fields.

**Rappahannock River**, 33017 River Mill Road, Richardsville, ☎ 540-399-1839 or 800-784-PADL, has primitive camping only. Canoe and tube rentals and kayaking.



## *Transportation*

Culpeper is well served by four **interstate highways**: I-95, I-64, I-81, and I-66. US Highway 29 runs north and south through the town, connecting Culpeper with Manassas to the north and Charlottesville to the south.

By rail, the town is served by **Amtrak** (☎ 800-872-7245) and regular bus service is offered by **Greyhound Lines (**☎ 800-231-2222).

**Culpeper County Airport** has a paved runway of 4,000 feet.

## *Information*

More information about the area can be obtained from the following:

**Culpeper County Chamber of Commerce**, 133 West Davis Street, Culpeper, VA 22701. ☎ 540-825-8628 or 888-CULPEPER; www.co.culpeper.va.us.

**Culpeper Department of Tourism**, 233 E. Davis Street, Suite 100, Culpeper, 22701, ☎ 540-727-0611.

**Culpeper Downtown Renaissance**, 233 E. Davis Street, Suite 100, Culpeper, ☎ 540-825-4416.

# Fairfax County

Once a farming community serving the nation's capital, Fairfax County has evolved into a major business center and one of the most desirable residential communities in the metro Washington area. Tysons Corner, the county's downtown, has more office space than the central

business districts of Houston, Cincinnati, Miami, or San Diego, and has one of the largest concentrations of retail shopping space in the nation.

Visitors to Fairfax County will enjoy a broad spectrum of communities, from the preserved turn-of-the century town of Clifton to the lakes and golf courses in the planned community of Reston.

More than 30,000 acres of park land and numerous recreational facilities beckon visitors. Over 100 miles of back-country trails are available for hiking, biking, and horseback riding. Tourists can travel back in time by visiting one or more of the county's many historical landmarks, including Mount Vernon, the estate of George Washington, and Gunston Hall, the home of George Mason.

World-class entertainment is presented year-round at Wolf Trap Farm Park for the Performing Arts and the George Mason University Center for the Arts. Programs presented by local performing arts and symphony groups are found in the communities throughout the county.

## *History*

The recorded history of Fairfax County, Virginia, is an important part of the history of all Americans. Although the county wasn't formally established until 1742, the history of English settlement on the land spans some 350 years from the early 1600s to the present.

One of the first men to record life in the area was the English explorer **Captain John Smith**. In 1608, Smith sailed up the Potomac River as far as present-day Arlington County. During his journey, which he undertook in order to draw a map of Virginia, he had many exciting encounters with Indian warriors, explored mighty forests teeming with wildlife, and drank sparkling water from crystal streams laden with fish, beaver and otter.

In 1694 the English king, Charles II, granted all the land between the Rappahannock and the Potomac Rivers, from the Chesapeake Bay to the headwaters, to a group of seven English noblemen. In 1719, however, all of that land came into the possession of Thomas, the sixth **Lord Fairfax**, after whom the county was named. By 1732, attempts had been made to form the land into a county, but it wasn't until 1741 that the Virginia assembly established Fairfax County with its court house located near present day Tysons Corner.

When the Fairfax County Courthouse was moved to its present location in Alexandria in 1751, the county was still very much a wilderness area. There were few roads and virtually no industry. The only wealth and commerce came from tobacco cultivation during the 18th century. Indeed, tobacco notes were the main form of monetary exchange for paying debts. In the end, however, the tobacco industry, due to poor land management

practices and over use, ruined the soil in Fairfax County and helped to hasten an economic decline.

From the mid-1700s to the end of the 18th century, there were many changes in the lifestyle and character of Fairfax County. Forests were cleared, roads were built, mills sprang up everywhere, and other forms of industry grew.

During the last half of the 18th century, two of the county's most prominent residents, **George Washington** and **George Mason**, became the chief forces behind the formation of the new American nation. Both were businessmen and farmers who strongly believed in commercial enterprise and the accumulation of capital. In 1784, George Washington presided over the first corporate venture in America, the **Patowmack Canal Company**. The company was formed to construct a canal around the Falls, on Virginia's northern border, to make the Potomac River navigable, to stimulate trade between the East Coast and the Ohio Valley.

Washington went on to become Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army. Later, in 1786, he became the nation's first president.

While Washington was the chief physical force behind the American Revolution, Mason was the chief intellectual force. Along with fellow Virginian Thomas Jefferson, Mason's ideas on the rights of man surfaced in such important documents as the Virginia Declaration of Rights and the Virginia Constitution of 1776, both of which were authored by him. The **Virginia Declaration of Rights** served as the model for both the American Bill of Rights and the French Declaration of Rights of Man and the Citizen, which was issued after the French Revolution.

As the 19th century dawned, it appeared that Fairfax County would continue to have economic prosperity and gain national recognition, especially with the new capital located just next door. Instead, the years from 1800 to 1850 were harsh ones. By then, the county's soils had been laid waste by the over-planting of tobacco, and the most prosperous economic area in the county, Alexandria City, had been ceded to the federal government. Moreover, the county's two most prominent citizens, Washington and Mason, had both died during the 1790s, leaving it virtually leaderless.

The decline of the population during this period reflects the harsh economic conditions of the area. At the turn of the 19th century there were more than 13,300 people living in the county; by 1830 that number had declined to around 9,200. The migration was due mainly to farmers leaving the depleted land in search of something better farther west in Kentucky and Ohio. The level of population in the county didn't rise above 10,000 again until after 1850.

The economic turnaround in Fairfax County began sometime in the mid-1840s. People from the northeastern part of the nation began to move into

the area, bringing with them sorely needed new farming techniques that allowed them to use the impoverished land.

During the **Civil War**, Fairfax County became a wasteland. Confederate troops were located in the western area, while Union troops were positioned in the northern and eastern areas near Alexandria. Troops of both sides crisscrossed the county, often wreaking havoc and destruction on private property. Raiders from both sides, the most notable being the Confederate John Singleton Mosby, used the area as a staging ground for many a foray into enemy territory.

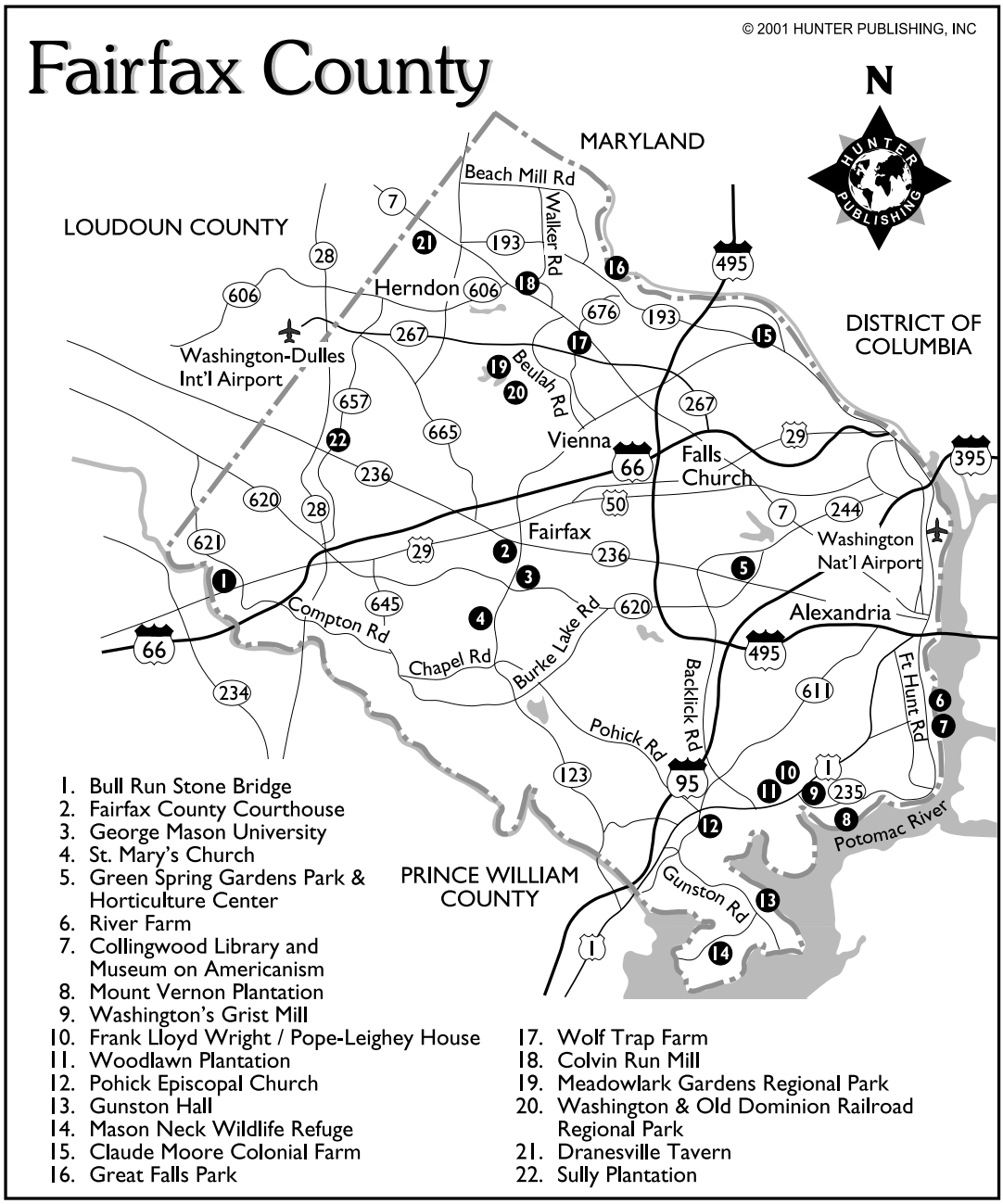
Two major battles, **1st and 2nd Manassas**, took place just to the south of and adjacent to Fairfax County. The first battle, in July 1861, was fought by inexperienced troops on both sides, and resulted in a rout for the Union Army under the command of General Irvin McDowell. This gave notice to the federal government that the war was going to last much longer than anyone had expected. The second battle, fought in late August, 1862, also resulted in a Confederate victory. This time it was General Robert E. Lee who defeated Union General John Pope, thus opening the door for Lee's invasion of the north in September of the same year.

Seven minor battles were fought in Fairfax County. On June 1, 1861, several casualties occurred during a Union cavalry raid on the Fairfax County Court House. Later that month a bloody battle broke out between Union and Confederate forces at Vienna, and more skirmishes were fought near Dranesville and Centreville.

The Civil War brought disruption on a grand scale to Fairfax County. Farmer's crops were stolen and destroyed and, depending upon the owner's sympathies and the troops involved, businesses were raided or shut down. Railroads were seized by both sides. Even the *Alexandria Gazette,* a daily newspaper serving parts of the county, was forced to cease publication. It resumed publication after the war.

The signs of war were everywhere in Fairfax County. Destitute people, some former slaves, wandered hopelessly from one wartorn community to the next. Discarded military hardware was a common sight on any roadside in the county. Military patrols, Union and Confederate, roamed the countryside. Hospitals were jammed with the wounded from both sides, and the local mortuaries were filled. Railroad and telegraph services were disrupted and even halted. And then it ended.

The war in Virginia ended with the surrender of General Lee's Army of Northern Virginia to General US Grant on April 13, 1865 and reconstruction followed soon after. The traditional lifestyle of pre-Civil War Fairfax County had, however, gone forever. It was replaced with a society where black citizens were given the right to vote and own property. The large plantations lay in ruins, and the northerners who had moved into Fairfax County during the 1840s and 1850s had fled.




Virginia was readmitted to the Union in 1870, and by then the county's fortunes had substantially recovered from the effects of war. The population had risen during the war years by almost 13,000. Schools and churches were flourishing again, as were the railroads and canals. Telegraph lines had been rebuilt, and many old businesses had reopened.

From 1930 onward, the county grew rapidly as people and businesses moved into the area. Between 1930 and 1950 the county's population quadrupled from 25,000 to 99,000. Today it exceeds 930,000.

Such rapid growth brought inevitable changes to the once-rural Fairfax County. The economy has changed from an agrarian one to one based upon the service industry, and while the lifestyle has altered the standard of living has become higher.

Today, residents enjoy a collective income among the top in the nation. The new prosperity brought one of the best public school systems in the country, an international airport, many beautiful parks, and numerous recreational and cultural opportunities.

Fairfax County has come a long way since Captain John Smith sailed up the Potomac in the early 1600s.

The history of Fairfax County has been rich and fascinating, experiencing both war and peace, crashing economic depressions, and soaring economic expansions.

## *Sights*

Fairfax County has preserved many of its historic sites for future generations to enjoy. Those that follow are but a sample.

**Mount Vernon**, the home of George Washington and one of the most visited historic homes in America, is first in popularity among visitors to the area. Washington's elegant mansion has been lovingly restored to its appearance in the last years of his life. The rooms, furnishings, handsome wood grainings, and satin window hangings all reflect the ambiance and the history of an exciting era in our nation's past.

Mount Vernon encompasses more than 30 acres of beautiful gardens and wooded grounds. The mansion's outbuildings reflect day-to-day life on the plantation much as it was in the late 1700s, and a short walk leads to the tomb where George and Martha Washington are buried.

Mount Vernon is easily accessible by car, bus, or boat. To obtain information on bus routes and schedules, contact **Metro Bus and Rail** at ☎ 202-962-1148, or **Tourmobile Sightseeing Tours** at ☎ 202-554-7950. Boat cruises to Mount Vernon are available on the *Potomac Spirit* (☎ 202-554-8000), which heads down the Potomac River from Washington DC between mid-March and October.

Mount Vernon is open daily year-round and is located at the southern end of George Washington Parkway. ☎ 703-780-2000.

**Gunston Hall** was the home of George Mason, one of the authors of the United States Constitution. The magnificent house has undergone extensive archaeological and architectural studies that have inspired major changes to its plan, color schemes, and the carved wood trim. The porch of Gunston Hall overlooks the riverfront and its magnificent formal garden. The English boxwood alley was planted by George Mason. The house is 20 miles south of Washington on the Potomac River. From the north it can be reached via I-95 at Exit 55, or the George Washington Parkway to US 1. From the south take Exit 54 on I-95 to US 1 and follow the signs. Gunston Hall is open daily. ☎ 703-550-9220.

**Woodlawn Plantation**, the estate of Nellie Custis, George Washington's foster daughter, provides a glimpse of plantation life as it was in the mid-1800s. It features splendid gardens with extensive lawns, large trees, and boxwood plantings. A tour of the house, with its rich display of furnishings and fine arts, offers an insight into the life and times of one of our nation's greatest families. The house is at 9000 Richmond Highway in Alexandria,14 miles south of Washington on US 1, near Mount Vernon. It is open daily March through December, and on weekends only in January and February. ☎ 703-780-4000.

**River Farm**, 7931 E. Boulevard Drive, ☎ 703-768-5700, once owned by George Washington, has 27 acres of lawns, gardens and woods on the Potomac River. Open Monday through Friday.

**The Frank Lloyd Wright/Pope-Leighey House**, next door to Woodlawn at 9000 Richmond Highway in Alexandria, was designed and built by Frank Lloyd Wright in the 1940s. It is one of only a few remaining examples of Usonian architecture on public display. Built of cypress, brick, and glass, the house exhibits many of the significant contributions Wright made to contemporary architecture: concepts of organic unity, free and fluid space, and the relationship of the building and its construction materials to their natural setting. The house is located on the Woodlawn Plantation and is open daily, except Thanksgiving and Christmas, from 9:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. It is open only on weekends during January and February. ☎ 703-780-4000.

**Colvin Run Mill** is a working 19th-century grist mill that processed grains and flours for use both at home and abroad. The gears and machinery are made almost entirely of wood and the milling technique was quite revolutionary for the early 1800s. The miller's house, along with a general store – be sure to buy a sack of flour – and a dairy barn, are also on the grounds. The park is open daily except Tuesday, March through December, and weekends January through mid-March. From I-495, take Exit 10W to Route 7. The mill is five miles west of Tysons Corne. ☎ 703-759-2771.

**The Claude Moore Colonial Farm** at Turkey Run is an 18th-century working farm. The farm has been restored to depict the lifestyle of the small farmer with a poor family in colonial times. It has 100 acres of land, 12 of which are planted with corn, tobacco, wheat, kitchen gardens, and an orchard. The fields are tilled and planted by hand, applying the basic principles of hoe agriculture. The farm is open April through December, Wednesday through Sunday. From I-495, take Route 193 east toward Langley for 2.3 miles. Turn left at the Claude Moore Colonial Farm sign just before the junction with Route 123. From Washington DC, take the George Washington Memorial Parkway north to Route 123 toward McLean. Drive almost a mile, then turn right onto Route 193 and make the first right at the Claude Moore Colonial Farm sign. ☎ 703-442-7557.

**The Sully Plantation** looks much as it did when it was built in 1794, complete with Federal-period antiques. The estate includes a kitchen-laundry, smokehouse, stone dairy, formal gardens, and schoolhouse store. Sully is in Chantilly on Route 28, less than a mile north of US 50, and four miles south of the Route 267, the Dulles Access Road. The plantation is open daily from mid-March through December, and on weekends January through mid-March. ☎ 703-437-1794.

**The Mason Neck Wildlife Refuge** was the first federal refuge established for the endangered bald eagle. It provides more than 2,000 acres of habitat for the 200 animal species that live on Belmont Bay. The refuge is four miles south of Richmond Highway on Gunston Road. ☎ 703-490-4979.

**The Mason Neck State Park** is next door to the wildlife refuge. It provides some 1,800 acres of magnificent parklands, with nature trails, picnic areas, and an abundance of wildlife, including deer, beavers, turtles and heron. ☎ 703-550-0960.

**Great Falls Park**, ☎ 703-285-2965, is favorite of rock climbers, hikers and picnickers. Features include a 76-foot waterfall on the Potomac River.

## *Arts & Entertainment*

Although Washington DC offers visitors an abundance of cultural attractions, Fairfax County has a unique cultural community all its own.

**Wolf Trap Farm Park for the Performing Arts** is the nation's only national park for the performing arts. The park consists of three separate facilities: The Filene Center, an open-air pavilion which seats 3,000 under roof and 4,000 on the lawn; The Barns, a 350-seat indoor theater used primarily in the fall and winter; and The Theater in the Woods, a facility devoted to performances for and by children. Events are scheduled year-round. For more information and schedules, ☎ 703-938-2404.

**The George Mason University Performing Arts Center** offers programs in ballet, dance, opera, symphony, jazz and theater. The season runs from September through April. For more information and schedules, ☎ 703-993-8888.

**The Fairfax County Council of the Arts** creates an environment for the arts and artists that enriches the culture and quality of life in the county. The Fairfax Symphony and the Fairfax Choral Society are but two of the more renowned groups involved. In addition, a number of smaller community theaters offer programs by regional performing arts groups.

In addition to the local cultural attractions offered by the county, some of the nation's great cultural centers and centers for the performing arts –

The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, The National Theater, Arena Stage, Ford's Theater, the Corcoran Gallery of Art, the National Gallery of Art, the Smithsonian Institute – are only a short distance away in Washington DC.

# *Recreation*

More than five million people visit Fairfax County parks each year. Several park systems, including some 35 parks, offer abundant recreational opportunities on more than 30,000 acres.

## *Parks*

The Fairfax County Park Authority manages four marinas, five nature centers, and eight recreation centers. These include the George Washington Recreation Center at Mount Vernon, the Mount Vernon Recreation Center at Huntington, The Oak Marr Recreation Center at Oakton, The Providence Recreation Center at Merrifield, The Robert E. Lee Recreation Center at Franconia, The South Run Recreation Center at Lorton, The Spring Hill Recreation Center at McLean, and The Wakefield Park Recreation Center at Springfield. Nature centers include the Hidden Oaks Nature Center at Annandale, the Hidden Pond Park at Springfield, the Huntley Meadows Park at Mount Vernon, the Riverbend Nature Center at Great Falls, and the Riverbend Park, also at Great Falls.

The Fairfax County Department of Recreation also provides a wide variety of recreational programs year-round. These programs include arts and crafts, music, dance, martial arts, aerobics, and horseback riding.

The National Park Service operates six parks in Fairfax County, the most notable being the Great Falls Park on the Potomac River, where visitors can see such historic sites as the nation's first canal system designed by George Washington, and the ruins of Matildaville, built in 1790. Recreational activities in the parks include fishing, boating, rafting, hiking, rock climbing, and wildlife and nature photography.

The Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority operates nine parks in Fairfax County. Activities include a wide variety of outdoor sports and recreation including golf, boating, fishing, swimming and camping. Trap and skeet shooting are available at the Bull Run Public Shooting Center, the only public shooting center in Northern Virginia.

## *Golf*

There are a dozen public golf courses in Fairfax County.

**Burke Lake Golf Center**, 18 holes, par 54, Fairfax Station, ☎ 703-323-1641.

**Fair Oaks Golf**, 9 holes, par 27, in Fairfax, ☎ 703-222-6600.

**Greendale Golf Course**, 18 holes, par 70, in Franconia, ☎ 703-971-6170.

**Herndon Centennial Golf Course**, 18 holes, par 71, in Herndon, ☎ 703-471-5769.

**Jefferson Golf Course**, 9 holes, par 34, Falls Church, ☎ 703-573-0443.

**Oak Marr Golf Course**, 9 holes, par 27, in Oakton, ☎ 703-255-5390.

**Penderbrook Golf Course**, 18 holes, par 72, Fairfax Center, ☎ 703-385-3700.

**Pinecrest Golf Course**, 9 holes, par 35, Annandale, ☎ 703-941-1061.

**Pleasant Valley Golfer's Club**, 18 holes, in Chantilly, ☎ 703-222-7900.

**Pohick Bay Regional Park Golf Course**, 18 holes, par 72, in Gunston, ☎ 703-339-8585.

**Reston National Golf Course**, 18 holes, par 71, Reston, ☎ 703-620-9333.

**Twin Lakes Golf Course**, 18 holes, par 73, Clifton, ☎ 703-631-9099.

### *Sports Facilities*

Sports facilities in Fairfax County include the **Annandale Bowling Center**, ☎ 703-256-2211; **Bowl America**, ☎ 703-941-6300; **Fair Lanes Bowling**, ☎ 703-830-3700; the **Bull Run Public Shooting Center** in Centreville, ☎ 703-830-2344; the **Fairfax Ice Arena**, ☎ 703-323-1131; the **Franconia Skating Center**, ☎ 703-971-3334; the **Reston Ice Forum**, ☎ 703-709-1010; the **Great Falls National Park for Kayaking**, ☎ 703-285-2966; the **Mount Vernon Recreational Center & Ice Rink**, ☎ 703-768-3222; the **Reston Community Indoor Pool**, ☎ 703-476-7299; and the **Reston Town Center Outdoor Ice Rink**, ☎ 703-318-7541.

Visitors can also enjoy the excitement of world-class professional sports, year-round. The fall and winter months are dominated by the Washington Redskins football team, the Washington Wizards basketball team, and the Washington Capitals hockey team. Spring and summer belong to the Baltimore Orioles baseball team DC United Soccer team, Washington Mystics, women's pro-basketball.

## *Annual Events*

**George Washington's Birthday** is celebrated in mid-February at Mount Vernon, ☎ 703-780-2000.

The **Annual Needlework Exhibition** is the largest one in the country. It's held during the entire month of March at Woodlawn Plantation. ☎ 703-780-4000.

**Garden Week in Virginia**, features home tours in April, ☎ 703-550-9220.

**The Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival** is held in Reston in May, ☎ 800-368-8696.

**A Wine Tasting Festival and Sunset Tour** takes place in May at Mount Vernon, ☎ 703-799-8604.

**The Fairfax Fair** is in early June at the Fairfax County Government Center, ☎ 703-324-FAIR.

**Taste of the Town** is in late June at Reston Town Center, featuring food from dozens of restaurants, ☎ 800-368-8696.

**Fourth of July Celebrations** are held at Mt. Vernon (☎ 703-780-2000), in Lee District Park (☎ 703-922-9841), at Lake Fairfax (☎ 703-471-5414) and there's a Fairfax parade (☎ 703-385-7858).

**Manassas Battlefield Park Anniversary Demonstration** is in August, ☎ 703-361-1339.

**The September Spectacular Quarter Horse Show** takes place at Frying Pan Park, ☎ 703-437-9101.

The **Annual Heritage Commemoration of the Slave Memorial** is held in September at Mount Vernon, ☎ 703-780-2000.

**Reston Town Center Holiday Celebration** lasts the entire month of December, ☎ 800-368-8696.

A variety of Fall and Christmas holiday events are held each year at Mount Vernon, Gunston Hall, Sully and Woodland Plantation and Frank Lloyd Wright's Pope-Leighey House. Call those locations for more information.



## *Shopping*

With more than 200 shopping centers totaling more 27 million square feet of retail space, Fairfax County is a mecca for shoppers. Shopping areas range in size from small specialty centers with 10 or fewer stores to super regional malls with more than 150 stores. The county boasts four of the latter, with national anchors such as Neiman-Marcus, Macy's, Nordstrom, Bloomingdale's, and Lord & Taylor.

**Tysons Corner** has one of the largest concentrations of retail space on the East Coast, with two super malls, more than five million square feet of shopping area and 355 stores.

Other popular shopping spots include the **Springfield Mall**, which has 250 stores; **Fair Oaks Mall** with 210 stores; and the **Reston Town Center**, with some 40 specialty retail shops and an 11-screen cinema.

**Antique stores** and other specialty shops can be found in the towns of Clifton, Vienna, Herndon, and at the Great Falls Village Center and the Lake Anne Plaza in Reston.

## *Dining*

For those who enjoy dining, Fairfax County offers numerous choices; everything from traditional American food to the best ethnic delights can be found in the county's restaurants. For more information, contact the Fairfax County Convention and Visitors Bureau, ☎ 703-790-3329 or visit www.visitfairfax.org.

Colonial foods and historic settings are the specialties of such fine restaurants as the **Mount Vernon Inn**, on the grounds of the Mount Vernon estate, ☎ 703-780-0011; the **Cedar Knoll Inn**, overlooking the Potomac River, also at Mount Vernon, ☎ 703-3799-1501; and the **Heart in Hand** in the Town of Clifton, ☎ 703-830-4111.

The international restaurants are too numerous to count. However, patrons have long enjoyed the unique cuisine at such restaurants as the **Hermitage Inn** (French) in Clifton, ☎ 703-266-1623; **L'Auberge Chez François** (French) in Great Falls, ☎ 703-759-3800; **LaBonne Auberge** (French), also in Great Falls, ☎ 703-759-3877; the **Russia House** in Herndon, ☎ 703-787-8880; **Angkor Wat** (Thai/Cambodian) in McLean, ☎ 703-893-6077; **Paolo's Ristorante** (Italian) in Reston, ☎ 703-318-8920; **Topkapi** (Turkish) in Fairfax, ☎ 703-273-4310; and **Pierre et Madeleine** (French) in Vienna, ☎ 703-938-4379.

Dozens of national and regional chains, wonderful local mom-and-pop cafés and restaurants, and hundreds of fast-food eateries provide endless possibilities for dining out, whatever your budget.

## *Accommodations*

Most establishments offer both handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms, but be sure to ask when making reservations.

### *Mount Vernon*

**Econo Lodge Mount Vernon**, 8849 Richmond Highway, Alexandria, ☎ 703-780-0300. 105 rooms, some handicapped-accessible, spa, restaurant. $$

**Comfort Inn Mount Vernon**, 7212 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. ☎ 703-765-9000. 92 rooms and suites, outdoor pool. $$

**Comfort Inn-Gunston Corner**, 8180 Silverbrook Road, Lorton, ☎ 703-643-3100, has 129 rooms with coffee maker, iron and hair dryer. Pool, fitness center. Pets are allowed. $$

**Days Inn Alexandria**, 6100 Richmond Highway, Alexandria, ☎ 703-329-0500. 108 rooms and suites, restaurant, outdoor pool. $$

**Hampton Inn**, 5821 Richmond Highway, Alexandria, ☎ 703-329-1400. The hotel has 156 rooms and suites, a spa, a restaurant, an exercise room, and an indoor pool. $$

**Home Style Inn**, 6461 Edsall Road, Alexandria, ☎ 703-354-4400. The hotel has 211 rooms and suites, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. Facilities include a restaurant, outdoor pool, and exercise room. $$

**Red Roof Inn**, 5975 Richmond Highway, Alexandria, ☎ 703-960-5200. 115 rooms and suites. $$

## *Springfield*

**Days Inn Springfield Mall**, 6721 Commerce Street, Springfield, ☎ 703-922-6100. 179 rooms and suites, restaurant, outdoor pool. $$

**Hampton Inn-Springfield**, 6550 Loisdale Court, Springfield, adjacent to Springfield Mall, ☎ 703-924-9444. The hotel has 153 rooms and suites, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. Restaurant, outdoor pool, airport shuttle, continental breakfast. $$-$$$

**Holiday Inn Express Springfield**, 6401 Brandon Avenue, Springfield. ☎ 703-644-5555. 194 rooms and suites, outdoor pool. $$

**Motel 6**, 6868 Springfield Blvd., Springfield, ☎ 703-644-5311. 193 rooms and suites. $-$$

**The Springfield Hilton**, 6550 Loisdale Road, adjacent to the Springfield Mall, ☎ 703-971-8900. 246 rooms and suites, some handicapped-accessible and some non-smoking, restaurant, outdoor pool. $$$

## *Falls Church*

**Best Western Falls Church Inn**, 6633 Arlington Blvd., Falls Church, ☎ 703-532-9000. 105 rooms and suites, restaurant, outdoor pool. $$

**Fairview Marriott**, 3111 Fairview Park Drive, Falls Church, ☎ 703-849-9400. 398 rooms and suites, many of them non-smoking, some handicapped-accessible. Restaurant, spa, indoor and outdoor pools, exercise room. $$-$$$

**Hampton Inn**, 4800 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, ☎ 703-671-4800. 130 rooms and suites, some handicapped-accessible and some non-smoking. Outdoor pool. $$-$$$

**Quality Inn Governor**, 6650 Arlington Blvd., Falls Church, ☎ 703-532-8900. 121 rooms and suites, restaurant, outdoor pool. $$

## *Fair Oaks*

**Courtyard Marriott Fair Oaks**, 11220 Lee Jackson Highway, Fairfax, ☎ 703-273-6161. 144 rooms and suites, restaurant, spa, indoor pool, exercise room. $$-$$$

**Holiday Inn Fair Oaks**, 11787 Lee Jackson Highway, Fairfax, ☎ 703-352-2525. 312 rooms and suites, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. Restaurant, spa, indoor pool, exercise room. $$-$$$

**Hyatt Fair Lakes**, 12777 Fair Lakes Circle, Fairfax, ☎ 703-818-1234. 316 rooms and suites, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. Full-service restaurant, spa, indoor pool, exercise room. $$$

## *Tysons Corner*

**Best Western Tysons Westpark Hotel**, 8401 Westpark Drive, McLean, ☎ 703-734-2800. 301 rooms and suites, restaurant, spa, indoor pool, exercise room. $$

**Comfort Inn Tysons Corner**, 1587 Springfield Road, Vienna. ☎ 703-448-8020. 250 rooms and suites, restaurant, spa, outdoor pool. $$

**Doubletree Hotel at Tysons Corner**, 7801 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, ☎ 703-893-1340. 405 rooms and suites. Restaurant, spa, indoor pool, exercise room. $$$

**Embassy Suites Hotel Tysons Corner**, 8517 Leesburg Pike, Vienna, ☎ 703-883-0707. 232 suites, restaurant, spa, indoor pool, exercise room. $$$

**Holiday Inn Tysons Corner**, 1960 Chain Bridge Road, McLean, ☎ 703-893-2100. 316 rooms and suites, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. Restaurant, spa, indoor pool, exercise room. $$$

**McLean Hilton at Tysons Corner**, 7920 Jones Branch Drive, McLean, ☎ 703-847-5000. 458 rooms and suites, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. Restaurant, indoor pool, exercise room. $$$

**Residence Inn by Marriott Tysons Corner**, 8616 Westwood Center Drive, Vienna. ☎ 703-893-0120. 96 suites, outdoor pool, exercise room. $$$

**The Ritz-Carlton**, **Tysons Corner**, 1700 Tysons Blvd., McLean, VA 22102. ☎ 703-506-4300. 400 rooms and suites, restaurant, spa, indoor pool, exercise room. $$$

**Sheraton Premiere at Tysons Corner**, 8661 Leesburg Pike, Vienna. ☎ 703-448-1234. 437 rooms and suites, restaurant, spa, indoor pool, outdoor pool, exercise room. $$$

**Tysons Corner Marriott Hotel**, Leesburg Pike, Vienna, ☎ 703-734-3200. 390 rooms and suites, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. Restaurant, spa, indoor pool, exercise room. $$$

**Vienna Wolf Trap Motel**, 430 Maple Avenue West, Vienna. ☎ 703-281-2330. 116 rooms and suites. $

## *Reston/Herndon/Dulles*

**Comfort Inn Herndon Dulles**, 200 Elden Street, Herndon, ☎ 703-437-7555. 103 rooms and suites, including some handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. $$-$$$

**Courtyard by Marriott-Dulles**, 3935 Centerview Drive, Chantilly, ☎ 703-709-7100. 149 rooms and suites, restaurant, spa, indoor pool, exercise room. $$-$$$

**Courtyard By Marriott Herndon/Reston**, 533 Herndon Parkway, Herndon, ☎ 703-478-9400. 146 rooms and suites, a restaurant, spa, indoor pool, exercise room. $$-$$$

**Days Inn Dulles International Airport**, 2200 Centreville Road, Herndon, ☎ 703-471-6700. 205 rooms and suites, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms, spa, indoor pool, exercise room. $$

**Hilton Washington Dulles Airport**, 13869 Park Center Road, Herndon, ☎ 703-478-2900. 349 rooms and suites, restaurant, spa, indoor and outdoor pools. $$$

**Holiday Inn Express -Dulles East**, 485 Elden Street, Herndon, ☎ 703-478-9777. 115 rooms and suites. $$-$$$

**Hyatt Dulles**, 2300 Dulles Corner Blvd., Herndon, ☎ 703-713-1234. 317 rooms and suites, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms, full-service restaurant, spa, indoor pool, exercise room. $$$

**Hyatt Regency Reston**, 1800 Presidents Street, Reston, ☎ 703-709-1234, has 514 rooms, and is adjacent to the "Main Street" with shops and restaurants. Every room has iron and ironing board, voice mail, and hair dryer; some have fax machines. There is a restaurant, sauna, whirlpool and heated indoor pool. $$$

**Marriott Suites Washington Dulles**, 13101 Worldgate Drive, Herndon. ☎ 703-709-0400. 253 suites, some non-smoking and some handicapped-accessible, spa, indoor pool, exercise room. $$$

**Sheraton Reston Hotel**, 11810 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, ☎ 703-620-9000. 310 rooms and suites, restaurant, spa, outdoor pool, exercise room. $$$

**Summerfield Suites Hotel-Dulles**, 13700 Coppermine Road, Herndon, ☎ 703-713-6800. 112 suites, spa, indoor pool, exercise room. $$$

**Westfields Marriott**, 14750 Conference Center Drive, Chantilly, ☎ 703-818-0300. 340 rooms and suites, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms, restaurant, spa, indoor pool, exercise room. $$$

## *Transportation*

Fairfax County is well served by many local and regional transportation companies. Major ones are listed below.

- **AAA Transit**, Falls Church, ☎ 703-998-8588.
- **Atlantic Coach**, Woodbridge, ☎ 703-878-2412.
- **Boston Coach**, Alexandria, ☎ 703-836-2601.
- **Franklin Charter Bus Service**, Manassas, ☎ 703-273-1675.
- **Greyhound-Lines**, Springfield, ☎ 703-569-6755.
- **Metro**, Washington DC, ☎ 202-962-1148.
- **On-Time American Transport, Inc.**, Arlington, ☎ 703-416-0990.
- **Virginia Coach**, Purcellville, ☎ 703-471-6422.

## *Information*

For more information, brochures, and guides, contact the **Fairfax County Convention and Visitors Bureau**, 8300 Boone Boulevard, Suite 450, Tysons Corner, Virginia 22182-2633, or stop by the **Fairfax County Visitors Center**, 8180-A Silverbrook Road, in Lorton. ☎ 703-790-3329 or 800-732-4732. www.visitfairfax.org.

# Fauquier County

Fauquier County is a tiny swatch of green and pleasant Virginia countryside less than an hour's drive from the nation's capital, but far enough from the hectic pace of city life. You can relax, become one with nature, and enjoy the peaceful small-town atmosphere of the historic villages unique to Northern Virginia.

Although its history is a long and turbulent one, Fauquier has retained all the charm and beauty of its agricultural heritage. Beautiful scenic vistas, rolling hills and countryside, dotted here and there by picturesque working farms, historic landmarks, craft fairs, Civil War re-enactments, horse shows, steeplechases, and a rich variety of outdoor recreational opportunities are only a few of the many delights and attractions.

## *History*

Prior to 1670, the only inhabitants of the land between the Falls of the Rivers and the Blue Ridge Mountains, now Fauquier County, were Native Americans. For a thousand years or more the mighty tribes had roamed the hills and valleys of Northern Virginia, hunting the deer and other game so abundant in the area.

Then the peace, unbroken for thousands of years, was shattered. Change came when the first white man, John Lederer, a German pioneer, arrived in what is now Fauquier County. The land that had laid undisturbed almost since the dawn of time would never be quite the same again.

Lederer wrote, *To heighten the beauty of the parts, the first springs of most of these great rivers which run into the Atlantic Ocean or the Chesapeake Bay, do here break out, and in various branches interlace the flowery meads, here luxurious herbage invites herds of red deer to feed.* The tourist industry describes the natural beauty of Fauquier County in much the same way today.

By 1722, the first efforts to settle the area were already under way. A treaty had been signed with the Iroquois who agreed to use the trails of the Shenandoah Valley for their excursions south into North Carolina rather than the long-established woodland trails of the Piedmont.

By 1726, the first settlers had begun moving into the county by way of Thoroughfare Gap in the Bull Run Mountains to the north, and the first settlement, now called **The Plains**, was situated at the very edge of the civilized world.

In 1736, Lord Fairfax established **Leeds Manor**, the first of the great homes, but later sold the property, comprising some 160,382 acres of prime real estate, to John Marshall, James Markham Marshall and Rawleigh Cowlston for the princely sum of 14,000 pounds sterling – a great deal of money in those early times. But the gentlemen-entrepreneurs who had invested so heavily in the property had no intention of leaving behind the rich and gay society of civilized colonial Virginia for the backwoods. Instead, they installed an overseer, erected two tobacco houses, and effectively blocked any further settlement of the land in upper Fauquier County until well after the Revolution.

During the Civil War the area became the center of Mosby's Confederacy. Colonel John Singleton Mosby organized his Rangers in 1863, and from

then on his command gave conspicuous service to the Southern cause. For more than two years Mosby's men ranged far and wide, almost at will, causing havoc and destruction in the Union-occupied territories. Although there were no major battles fought in Fauquier, the county was pretty well devastated by the Union occupation. Crops and livestock were stolen and the land left uncultivated. Most of the churches, those that weren't gutted, were defaced.

When the war ended, however, life slowly returned to normal. By the end of September, 1865, the Orange and Alexandria Railroad was running again, and making stops at Catlett and Rappahannock Station. The soil was tilled, crops sewn, and in the spring of 1866 a whole new generation of livestock was born. By the turn of the century, Fauquier County ranked third in the state for wheat production, and sixth for corn.

Today, the beauty of the countryside remains much the same in many places as it was when John Lederer first set foot in the area in 1670. The agricultural economy thrives, and the local people welcome visitors to this tiny corner of what they regard as paradise.

## *Sights*

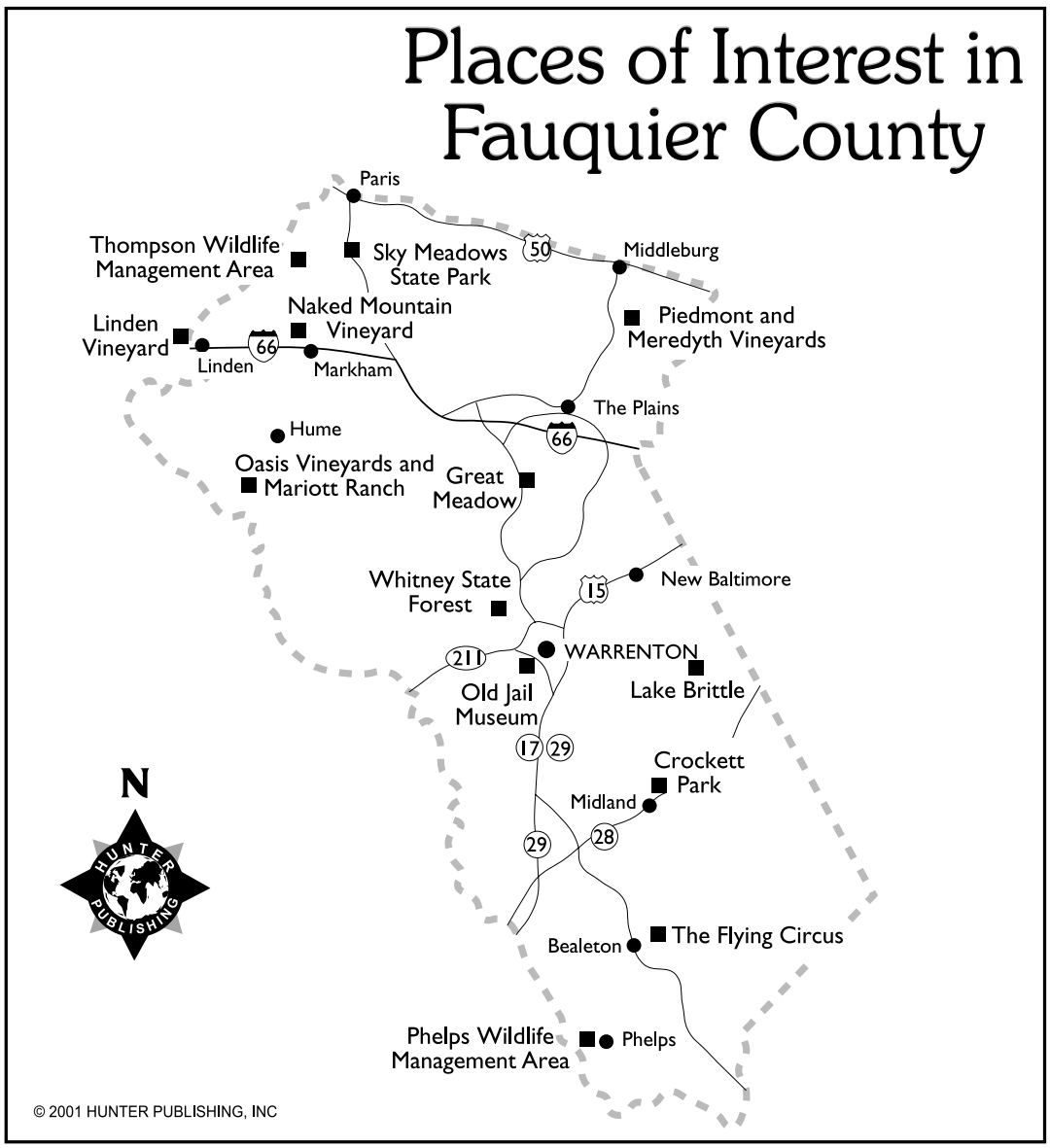
**Old Town Warrenton** is a Virginia and National Historic District. Warrenton was established and incorporated in 1810 on 71 acres of land donated by Richard Henry Lee, the father of the Declaration of Independence. The city was named for General Joseph Warren, who fought in the Revolutionary War at Bunker Hill.

During the early years, the old town achieved a reputation for its "salubrious climate and pleasant social life." After the Civil War it became a mecca for horse lovers. The Warrenton Hunt was established in 1888, the Warrenton Horse Show in 1900, and the first Virginia Gold Cup Race was run in 1922. Later, Warrenton became something of a resort, famous for its fine Warren Green Hotel and Fauquier White Sulpher Springs.

The sleepy country town has changed radically over the years but still retains an old-world atmosphere that belies the bustling community Warrenton has become. The shaded streets and the historic buildings of the town center are reminders of more leisurely times.

A **walking tour** of the Historic District includes the Old Court House, the County Office Buildings, the California Building, the Old Jail, the Warren Green Hotel, the old Warrenton Library, Culpeper Street, Main Street, and Winchester Street. For a brochure and walking tour map, contact the Warrenton-Fauquier County Visitor Center at 183A Keith Street, Warrenton, VA 20186, ☎ 540-347-4414 or 800-820-1021.

**Old Jail Museum.** The Warrenton jail was built in 1779 and was still in use as recently as 1965. Today the jail is a Virginia Landmark and the headquarters of the County Historical Society. The old Jail also houses a




museum with an assortment of exhibits and artifacts that reflect the long and interesting history of the area from the earliest times when Indians inhabited Fauquier, through colonial times, the Civil War, and up to the present day. In its day the Old Jail was home to an assortment of drunks, runaway slaves, thieves, murderers, and drug abusers.

The original building was fairly small. There were two cells downstairs and two upstairs. Over the years the old building has been restored and repaired. A kitchen wing, added in 1824, has been fully restored to its original condition and is used for historical demonstrations.

The new building held four more cells, beyond which was an exercise yard surrounded by a high stone wall. It was here, until 1896, that the condemned felons mounted the 13 “unlucky steps” to the gallows. The Old Jail is open to the public Tuesday through Sunday year-round, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. For more information, ☎ 540-347-5525.

**Driving Tours of Fauquier County**. Brochures are available from the Warrenton-Fauquier County Visitor Center. The **Northern Tour** begins in Warrenton and takes in Payne Memorial in Orlean; the Smallest Post Office in Hume; the Marriott Ranch; the Oasis Vineyard; the Linden Vineyards; the Thompson Wildlife Management Area; the Naked Mountain Vineyard; Sky Meadows State Park; and several more stops of interest. The **Southern Tour** also starts in Warrenton and takes in a variety of interesting stops and recreation areas, including Neavil's Mill; Casanova Junction; the Weston Wildlife Area; Crockett Park and Germantown Lake; and the Warren Green Hotel (see below).

A **Virginia Civil War Trails** brochure is also available at the Visitors Center, and details a self-guided driving/walking tour of 12 area sites.

**The Warren Green Hotel** on Hotel Street, now a county office building, once welcomed generations of summer visitors, including General Lafayette, President Monroe, and General George Brinton McClellan, commander of the Union Army of the Potomac during the Civil War.

**The California Building** is "a mellow brick relic of the last century," built by Governor "Extra Billy" Smith with profits from the California Gold Rush. The old house, once a family residence, is now a county office building and a part of the walking tour of Warrenton's Historic District.

**Afro-American Historical Association**, 4249 Loudoun Avenue, The Plains, ☎ 540-253-7488, features historical and genealogical displays. Open Saturdays from 1 to 5 p.m.

**Fauquier Veterans Memorial**, Hospital Hill, Warrenton, honors citizens who died in military service during the 20th century. The bronze railing features marching soldiers by sculptor Fredrick Hart.

## *Vineyard Tours*

More than 40 wineries are nestled among Virginia's rolling hills, and five of them are in Fauquier County. All offer tours.

**The Linden Vineyards** are two miles from Linden on Route 638 and offer tours, tastings, and a spectacular mountain view. Open April through December. ☎ 540-364-1997.

**The Meredyth Vineyards** are on Route 628 in the Bull Run Mountains just south of Middleburg, set in an area of great natural beauty. The vineyard and the farm shop are open to the public from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. daily except Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. ☎ 540-687-6277.

**The Naked Mountain Vineyard** is near Markham on Route 688. There's a picnic area with a panoramic view of the vineyard. Open Wednesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. ☎ 540-364-1609.

**The Oasis Winery** is on Route 635 near Hume, set among some of the most spectacular country in Northern Virginia. The vineyard and farm shop are open to the public from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. ☎ 540-635-7627.

**The Piedmont Vineyards and Winery** are on Route 626 near Middleburg. Piedmont was Virginia's first commercial winery and is located on a pre-Revolutionary farm. The vineyard, farm shop, and picnic areas are open to the public from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. daily, except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. ☎ 540-687-5528.

# *Recreation*

## *Parks*

This area is well known for its equestrian sports, but more than that, it's also a place where you enjoy quiet times in the country. Parks and wildlife management areas abound with all sorts of natural life and scenic vistas. For those who enjoy the hunt, fox hunting that is, well, it all happens in Fauquier County. There are plentiful opportunities for fishing, boating, canoeing, hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, or simply an afternoon picnic under the trees.

There are public **tennis courts** at Cedar-Lee Middle School in Bealeton; Taylor Middle School, Warrenton Middle School, and Fauquier High School in Warrenton; and at Marshall Middle School in Marshall.

**C.M. Crockett Park** on Route 603 near Midland is 100 acres where you'll find there's plenty to do. Popular activities include fishing and boating, hiking along the woodland nature trail, birdwatching and nature study. Among the facilities are a boat ramp, boat rentals, a comfort station, a couple of playgrounds for the kids, three picnic shelters, a concession stand and a 300-seat amphitheater; there's even a cross country ski trail. For more information, ☎ 540-788-4867.

**Eva Walker Park**, at the edge of Old Town Warrenton, is a neat place to take the kids for an afternoon of fun and relaxation. It features a children's park with playground equipment, horseshoe pit, a basketball court, and picnic area.

**The John Marshall Birthplace Park** near Midland offers several nature and hiking trails, a picnic area, and a memorial to John Marshall.

The **Vint Hill Farms Park**, off Route 652, is a 14-acre park with several nature and hiking trails, swimming facilities, and a couple of picnic areas.

**Lake Brittle** is a state-owned tract of 77 acres that provides a variety of outdoor activities, including fishing, boating, hiking and picnicking. The park is in New Baltimore just of Route 600. Boat rentals are available.

**The Chester A. Phelps Wildlife Management Area**, on Route 651 between Sumerduck and Remington, is a 4,540-acre park near the Rappahannock River. Recreational facilities include horseback riding, hiking and nature trails. Hunting and fishing is permitted in season and the park has handicapped-accessible trails. ☎ 540-899-4169.

**Sky Meadows State Park**, on Route 17, is an 1,800-acre park that offers a great many outdoor recreational opportunities. It's a peaceful getaway close to the Blue Ridge Mountains. Easy access to the Appalachian Trail is available via four hiking trails within the park. Facilities include a number of woodland and parkland trails, riding trails, picnic areas, and several primitive campgrounds. A variety of supervised programs are available during the summer months, including Civil War re-enactments and farm heritage programs for the children. ☎ 540-592-3556.

**The Richard Thompson Wildlife Management Area**, on Route 688 near Hume, is a 4,000-acre wilderness area that extends through Fauquier County into Warren and Clark Counties. The park's biggest attraction is its lake, which is well stocked with smallmouth bass, sunfish, and channel catfish. The Appalachian Trail passes through the Wildlife Management Area, and there are several hiking and horseback riding trails. For more information, contact the Warrenton-Fauquier County Visitor Center at ☎ 540-347-4414 or 800-820-1021.

**Rady Park**, off Route 17 at the north edge of Warrenton, has a one-mile paved hiking/biking trail and a picnic shelter along a stream.

**Marriott Ranch-Guided Trail Rides** in Hume, ☎ 540-364-2627, offers trail riding on a 4,500-acre Texas longhorn cattle ranch. Reservations required.

### *Golf*

**Fairview Golf Center**, 5020 Lee Highway, Warrenton, ☎ 540-349-9761, has a driving range, putting green and pro shop.

**Fairway Golf Center** (practice range) is at 11435 Lucky Hill Road, Remington, ☎ 540-439-9305.

**Fauquier Springs Country Club**, 9236 Tournament Drive, Warrenton, ☎ 540-347-4205.

**Kastle Green Golf Club**, 11446 Rogues Road, Midland, ☎ 540-788-3144, has an 18-hole golf course, driving range, pro shop and grill and bar.

## *Annual Events*

The **Upperville Garden Club Daffodil Show** is held the second week in April at Trinity Parish House. ☎ 540-592-3327.

**The Virginia Gold Cup Races** are held the first Saturday in May at Great Meadow Race Course in The Plains. For tickets and more information, ☎ 540-347-2612.

**The Strawberry Festival** is held Memorial Day Weekend at Sky Meadows State Park, Delaplane. ☎ 540-592-3556.

A **Fourth of July Celebration** is held at Great Meadows, The Plains. ☎ 540-253-5001.

**The Fauquier County Fair** is held in Marshall the third weekend in July. ☎ 540-341-7950.

**The Annual Festival of Virginia Wines** is held in August at Great Meadows, The Plains. ☎ 540-253-5001.

**The Warrenton Horse Show** is Labor Day week and weekend at the Warrenton Horse Show Grounds. ☎ 540-347-9442.

**The International Gold Cup Races** are held the third Saturday in October at the Great Meadows Race Course. For tickets and more information, ☎ 540-347-2612.

**Christmas in Old Town** Warrenton features a parade on the first Saturday in December, beautiful lights and a variety of special activities throughout the holiday season. ☎ 540-349-8606.

**First Night Warrenton** is held in historic Old Town Warrenton on New Year's Eve. It's a non-alcoholic, family-oriented celebration of the arts. ☎ 540-347-4414.



## *Antiquing*

If antiquing is your passion, you're in luck! You will find more than 50 dealers in a variety of interesting and fascinating buildings and malls, on side roads, main roads, and shady city streets. Collectors can enjoy a weekend with a difference digging around inside the many shops as they travel the back-country roads from one tiny community to the next.

**Old Town Warrenton** has more than 80 shops, boutiques, galleries and restaurants where you can pop in for a bite between shopping.

For more information, contact the Warrenton-Fauquier County Visitor Center at 183A Keith Street, Warrenton, VA 20186, ☎ 800-820-1021 or 703-347-4414.

## *Entertainment*

**The Fauquier Community Theatre**, a well-established performing arts organization at the Theater at Vint Hill, offers a variety of produc-

tions throughout the year. For schedules and ticket information, ☎ 540-349-8760.

**The Bluemont Concert Series** brings a variety of music to Northern Virginia each year during the summer. Programs ranging from big band to folk, and from country to gospel, begin in June and run through August. People bring picnic suppers and blankets to spread on the grass, and people of all ages get together each week to celebrate the music and the summer. Homemade refreshments are sold during the intermission.

**The Flying Circus Airshow** features precision aerobatics, wing walking, skydiving and rides in antique airplanes. Airshows are held on Sundays at 2:30 p.m., May through October. Located at Routes 17 and 644, Bealeton, ☎ 540-439-8661.

## *Dining*

There are more than 40 restaurants and cafés in Fauquier County and Warrenton. Here is a just a sampling.

**Barbecue Country Jamboree**, 251 W. Lee Highway, Warrenton, ☎ 540-347-1010, serves open-pit barbecued ribs, beef, pork and chicken.

**Ben & Mary's Steak House**, 6806 James Madison Highway, Warrenton, ☎ 540-347-4100. Specialties include filet mignon and prime rib, and they have an extensive wine list.

**China Jade Seafood Restaurant**, 375 W. Shirley Avenue, Warrenton, ☎ 540-349-1383, specializes in Hong Kong style seafood and has a daily luncheon buffet.

**The Depot Restaurant**, 65 S. Third Street, Warrenton, ☎ 540-347-1212, is located in a turn-of-the-century train station and serves Mediterranean and American cuisine.

**Fantastico-Ristorante Italiano & Inn**, located at 380 Broadview Avenue, Warrenton, ☎ 540-349-2575, is open for lunch and dinner. Reservations recommended. The restaurant offers Northern Italian cuisine, with seafood, veal, and pasta dishes. The restaurant is handicapped-accessible.

**Frogs & Friends**, 7391 John Marshall Highway, Marshall, serves French cuisine and is open for dinner Tuesday through Sunday.

**Legends Restaurant**, 67 W. Lee Street, Warrenton, ☎ 540-347-9401, is open for lunch and dinner. The menu is continental; specialties of the house include filet mignon and Jack Daniel's shrimp. The restaurant is handicapped-accessible, and reservations are accepted.

**Napoleon's Restaurant**, 67 Waterloo Street, Warrenton, ☎ 540-347-4300, is open for lunch and dinner. It offers continental cuisine and dining on the outdoor terrace or by the cozy fireplace. Specialties include

veal, fresh fish, and seafood. The restaurant is handicapped-accessible, and reservations are accepted.

**Town 'n Country Restaurant**, 5037 Lee Highway, New Baltimore, ☎ 540-347-3614, is open for lunch and dinner. Cuisine is continental, with emphasis on steak, seafood, and pasta dishes. The restaurant is handicapped-accessible. Reservations are accepted.

# *Accommodations*

Most establishments offer both handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms, but be sure to ask when making reservations.



## *Hotels & Motels*

**Comfort Inn**, 7379 Comfort Inn Drive, Warrenton, ☎ 540-349-8900, has 97 rooms, four with whirlpool, and handicapped rooms are available. Refrigerator and coffee makers in all rooms. There is a guest laundry, fitness room, picnic tables, grills and an outdoor pool. Complimentary continental breakfast. $$-$$$

**Fauquier Motel**, Route 29/17/15 South, Warrenton, ☎ 540-347-9475, has 11 rooms and offers a senior citizens discount. $

**The Hampton Inn**, 501 Blackwell Road, Warrenton, ☎ 540-349-4200, has 100 rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. Free coffee in the lobby, complimentary continental breakfast, meeting rooms, a coin laundry, an exercise room, an outdoor swimming pool, and several picnic tables and a grill. $$

**Howard Johnson**, 6 Broadview Avenue, Warrenton, ☎ 540-347-4141, has 79 rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. Free coffee is available in the lobby, and there's an outdoor swimming pool and adjacent restaurant. $

**Rip Van Winkle**, 184 Broadview Avenue, Warrenton, ☎ 540-347-7272, has 28 rooms. $

## *Bed & Breakfasts / Inns*

**Alwyngton Manor**, 511 Falmouth Street, Warrenton, ☎ 540-341-7766, has four rooms with private baths and serves a full breakfast. No children or smoking. $$

**The Ashby Inn & Restaurant**, 692 Federal Street, Paris, ☎ 540-592-3900, is open year-round except on major holidays. The inn has 10 guest rooms, eight with private bath, and the rates include a large country breakfast. The inn will take children over the age of 10; no pets. There is a full restaurant for dinner, Wednesday through Saturday, with a contemporary American cuisine. Specialties include game pies, gumbo, venison and seafood. $$$

**B&B at Foxgloves**, 11221 Crest Hill Road, Marshall, ☎ 540-364-4499, has three guest rooms, all with private baths. A full breakfast is served. The Williamsburg Colonial home is elegantly decorated with some antiques in a peaceful, stately setting. $$$

**Black Horse Inn**, 8393 Meetze Road, Warrenton, ☎ 540-349-4020, has seven rooms with private baths. Full breakfast and dinner on request. Children 12 and older. $$$

**Canterbury Cottage on Pendragon Dale**, 12055 Crest Hill Road, Hume, ☎ 540-364-3970, has three rooms, one with a private bath. Full country breakfast and other meals on request. Children and pets permitted. $$-$$$

**Fantastico Inn**, 380 Broadview Avenue, Warrenton, ☎ 540-349-2575, has 14 rooms with private baths. Continental breakfast and an Italian restaurant, piano bar and lounge. Children permitted. $$

**Fairlea Farm Bed & Breakfast**, 636 Mt. Salem Avenue in Washington, ☎ 540-675-3679, is a fieldstone manor house five minutes from the historic village of Washington, VA. It overlooks a 40-acre sheep and cattle farm. The B&B has three guest rooms and one suite. $$$

**Highland Farm & Inn Bed & Breakfast**, 10981 Lee's Mill Road, Remington, ☎ 540-439-0088, has two rooms with private baths. Full breakfast on weekends; continental during the week. No children or smoking. $$-$$$

**Inn at Fairfield Farm**, 5305 Marriott Lane, Hume, ☎ 540-364-3221, has 10 rooms, seven with private baths. Full breakfast; children permitted. It is located on the 4,500-acre Marriott Ranch which offers trail rides. $$$

**The 1763 Inn** is in Upperville, ☎ 540-592-3848. The inn has 18 guest rooms, all with private baths, TV, phone, refrigerators and coffee makers. There's a tennis court, a pool, and a fishing pond. Their dining room serves German-American food in an elegant atmosphere. $$$

**Stonehurst Farms**, 6623 McRaes Road, Warrenton, ☎ 540-347-7710, has four rooms, three with private baths. Spectacular mountain views. Full breakfast served. Children permitted. No smoking. $$$

## *Transportation*

**Interstate 66** runs east and west through the county, linking Fauquier with Northern Virginia and Washington DC. Other primary highways include US Highways 15, 17, 29, 50 and 211, and State Routes 28 and 55.

**Greyhound Lines, Inc.** offers pickup and discharge at Quarles Truck Stop, Route 29/15/17 South. For schedules and ticket information, ☎ 800-231-2222.

Air transportation is available through **Washington Dulles International Airport**, about 30 miles away, and through **Ronald Reagan National Airport**, 40 miles from Fauquier County.

## *Information*

For tourist information, contact the **Warrenton-Fauquier County Visitor Center** at 183A Keith Street, Warrenton, VA 20186, ☎ 800-820-1021 or 540-347-4414. The Visitor Center is open seven days a week from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m., except major holidays, and provides comprehensive information about local, regional and state attractions. A video, *The Sights and Sounds of Warrenton and Fauquier County*, gives an overview of the attractions, events, historic sights and outdoor opportunities.



# Fredericksburg, Spotsylvania County & Stafford County

The City of Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania County have been entertaining travelers for more than three centuries. Today, much as in the past, this historic region of Northern Virginia offers the chance to savor a delightful combination of history, shopping, dining and recreational activities.

In Fredericksburg, Stafford and Spotsylvania, you'll discover exciting chapters in our nation's history. To stroll the streets and the country lanes is to follow in the footsteps of the patriots who helped found our country. Men like George Washington, James Monroe, and Thomas Jefferson either lived or spent much of their time in Fredericksburg. Visiting Fredericksburg is a step back in time. Here you can experience all the drama of the Civil War, for Fredericksburg and its surrounding area was the scene, not of one major battle in the War Between the States, but four. Crucial military engagements were fought at Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, at Spotsylvania Court House, and in The Wilderness.

But history is only one of the area's attractions. Fredericksburg's downtown historic district offers the opportunity to wander the age-old streets or browse the shop windows in some 350 original 18th- and 19th-century buildings. You can eat lunch or dine in any one of a dozen or more quaint, out-of-the-way cafés and restaurants.

If you're the outdoors type, you might like to spend a day at beautiful Lake Anna, a 13,000-acre recreation area surrounded by gently rolling hills and meadows. Here you can water-ski, fish, swim or sail away the hours in an atmosphere of peace and tranquillity rivaled by few other places in Virginia.

Throughout the region you can expect to find a variety of comfortable lodgings, fine restaurants and many unique shopping opportunities. In Fredericksburg, past and present come together in perfect harmony to provide for a memorable vacation.

## *History*

The area around Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania has been inhabited for thousands of years. To the Indians, the lands where the river waters fall were favorite fishing and hunting grounds. To Virginia's early settlers, the fall line of the Rappahannock River was a strategic location perfectly situated to serve both as a frontier settlement and a river port.

In 1719, the English Crown appointed **Alexander Spotwood** governor. He served in that capacity until 1722. Today, he is generally remembered as the architect of the new colonial capital, Williamsburg.

Spotwood obviously enjoyed his term as governor, for he spent a great deal of time wandering the far reaches of the colony.

In 1713, a large deposit of iron ore was discovered near the Rapidan River west of present day Spotsylvania County. Spotwood was quick to seize the opportunity. Taking advantage of the license provided by his public office, he made arrangements to acquire some 85,000 acres of land in the area. In 1720, the Assembly made Spotwood's acquisition a new county and called it Spotsylvania in his honor.

Spotwood was replaced as governor in 1722, but by then his fortune was secure. His extensive mining empire, perhaps one of the earliest industrial ventures in Colonial America, included a furnace and wharves on the Massaponax Creek. By the time he had established an elaborate home at Germanna, his enterprise was thriving. By 1728, his operations employed more than 1,600 workers. Unfortunately, Spotwood's magnificent home was destroyed by fire in 1750. Today, the original site is the subject of a major archaeological study.

Soon the settlers, planters and homesteaders began arriving in Spotwood's county in ever-increasing numbers. **Tobacco** was the crop from which most of them derived their living. And their successful endeavors created new needs. The tobacco they grew had to be transported eastward, but the riverfront land at the falls had all been claimed more than a half-century earlier. At first, the settlers were permitted to use Spotwood's facilities and wharves, but that arrangement soon created problems. Friction between Spotwood and the planters was, however, alleviated when the Assembly once again obliged the former governor, designating another site as a port for the settlers.

Today, the town of **Fredericksburg** lies where the first wooden buildings were raised on a 50-acre site in 1728. The tiny town was named for Prince Frederick, the son of King George II. Frederick didn't live to be-

come king. Instead, his son George became the third English king of that name, and the last king of the colonies in the New World. All of the streets that made up the original town are still in place, and all bear names honoring Frederick's family: George, Caroline, Sophia, Princess Anne, Hanover, Charlotte, William and Amelia.

During its formative years, Fredericksburg was little more than a raunchy little frontier river port, similar to the frontier cow towns of the far west. But slowly the town began to grow. The tiny population swelled as tradesmen, merchants, companies and an assortment of immigrants came to live and then prospered. By 1730 the English Crown had established more than 70 tobacco shipping and receiving centers in the colony. It was at these centers that quantities were controlled and taxes collected. When Fredericksburg was designated the official shipping and receiving center for Spotsylvania County in 1730, things really began to boom. Thousands of barrels of tobacco were brought to the inspection station on Wolfe Street. They were then transferred into the warehouse and stored until they could be placed on board ship for England and Europe.

In 1732, the county court was moved from Germanna to a new building on Princess Anna Street in Fredericksburg. There it remained for more than 100 years until it was moved into the present building. Apparently the court in Fredericksburg which met monthly must have been an interesting and somewhat lively place. Thousands of lawsuits, some serious, many trivial, were heard by justices appointed by the governor.

The 1740s brought even more change to Fredericksburg. The town was no longer a tiny frontier community. New immigrants continued to arrive. Among them was a diversity of no-goods and ne'er-do-wells that included hundreds of convicted criminals exported from England as indentured servants. They brought with them poverty, crime and the usual assortment of social diseases.

The 1750s brought even more change, as Fredericksburg attracted the attention of the moneyed aristocracy. By this time most of the land in the colony had been snapped up. Already great parcels of property were passing by inheritance from one generation of landed gentry to the next and, as was the tradition, only the eldest son of the family could inherit. This left a great many younger sons wandering around with money in their pockets, time on their hands, and ambitions that would never be fulfilled at home. Many of them became pioneers and headed west. Some arrived in Fredericksburg, liked what they found there, and decided to stay.

Without doubt, Fredericksburg's most famous son was **George Washington**. From the age of six until 16 he lived at Ferry Farm, the family property located just across the river in Stafford County. Washington sold the farm in 1774 and moved his mother, Mary, to a cottage in the center of town. Except for the final years of his life, he continued to spend a great deal of his time in and around Fredericksburg. The cottage George Wash-

ington purchased for his mother still stands today, as does Kenmore, the elegant plantation home where his sister Betty lived.

The War of the Revolution and subsequent independence from England brought more change to Spotsylvania County. International trade dwindled, but the great river continued to serve as a major artery for domestic trade north to Philadelphia and Baltimore, and south to Tennessee and the Carolinas. New warehouses and wharves were built along the waterfront and Fredericksburg continued its role as a regional center for commerce and trading until well into the 19th century.

By the mid-1830s, the area's population had grown to more than 3,000, including some 1,100 slaves, and was exporting more than 400 hogsheads of tobacco, 500,000 bushels of corn, 150,000 bushels of wheat, 75,000 barrels of flour, and $75,000 in gold per year. The town had five churches, two newspapers, four taverns, a dozen schools, and a hundred or so small businesses, including tanners, gunsmiths, ship's chandlers, and carriage builders.

And then, during the closing weeks of 1862, the peace and tranquillity of the region was shattered. Fredericksburg became the center of the deadly conflict that was the **Civil War**. Great battles were fought within the city limits and on Marye's Heights above Fredericksburg, at Chancellorsville, Spotsylvania Court House, and in the Wilderness. Confederate General Robert E. Lee and his Army of Northern Virginia successfully fought a succession of Union generals to a standstill. For many months the Confederate Army held the high ground outside Fredericksburg while the Union Army was headquartered at the Chatham Plantation just across the Rappahannock in Stafford County. The scars of battle remain on the city streets and buildings, and in the cemeteries where more than 17,000 soldiers who died during those terrible times lie buried.

Today, much of Fredericksburg's past remains visible. The charming 18th- and 19th-century buildings have been maintained in much the same condition as when they were built. As you stroll the historic streets of the 40-block National Historic District, or walk the nave of Stafford County's beautiful old Aquia Church, you'll feel that you have indeed taken a step back in time.

## *Sights*

The following is a round-up of historic sites in and around the city of Fredericksburg. All are unique, interesting and well worth a visit.

**The Belmont Estate**, with its fine 18th-century mansion, was the home of renowned American artist Gari Melcher from 1816 until his death in 1932. Melcher and his wife modernized the old house and built the large stone studio and gazebo that overlooks the Rappahannock River. The house is furnished with many antiques and paintings the Melchers col-

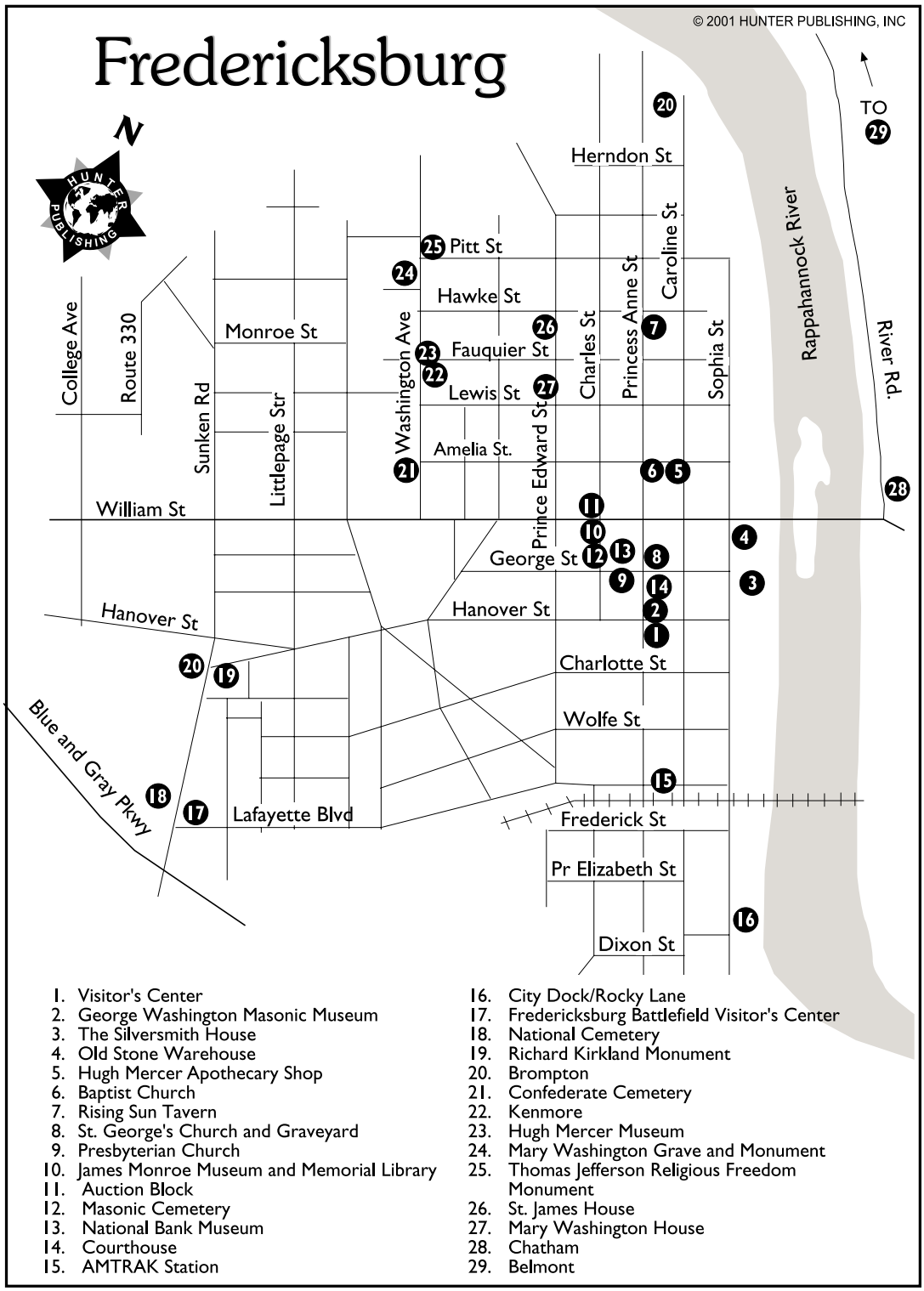
lected during their travels throughout the United States and Europe. The gardens include plantings of spring flowers, azaleas, wisteria, and an assortment of old hardwood trees. The studio contains a selection of the Melchers' works. The house is open daily except Thanksgiving, New Year's Day, and Dec. 24, 25 and 31. For more information, contact The Gari Melcher Estate and Memorial Gallery, 224 Washington Street, Falmouth, ☎ 540-654-1015.

**Chatham** is a magnificent Georgian mansion built sometime between 1768 and 1771 by William Fitzhugh. It was the site of one of the best known plantations in the Fredericksburg area. During the Civil War Battle of Fredericksburg the great house served as General Burnside's Union headquarters. Today, it is owned and operated by the National Park Service and is a part of the Fredericksburg/Spotsylvania National Military Park. The grounds at the rear of the mansion have been restored to resemble their colonial appearance. Chatham features an interpretive museum and concerts are held on the lawn in the summer. The mansion is across the river from Fredericksburg on Chatham Lane in Stafford County. The house is open daily except Christmas and New Year's. For more information, contact the Fredericksburg/Spotsylvania National Battlefield Park Headquarters, Chatham House, Chatham Lane, Falmouth, VA, or ☎ 540-373-4461.

At the **Confederate Cemetery**, the bodies of more than 2,000 Confederate soldiers who died in the Fredericksburg/Spotsylvania area lie buried in the hallowed ground here on Washington Avenue. Most of them are unknown. Just after the end of the Civil War in 1865, a group of local women formed the Ladies Memorial Association of Fredericksburg. They did so in order to raise money to buy land where they could inter the bodies of the Confederate dead. In 1867, their dream became a reality when land adjoining the Fredericksburg Cemetery was purchased and the two cemeteries were enclosed within a brick wall. Six Confederate generals rest, along with those who served them so well, within the walls of the cemetery: Seth Barton, Daniel Ruggles, Carter Stevenson, Dabney Maury, Abner Perrin, and Henry H. Sibley. The cemetery is on Washington Avenue at Amelia Street in Fredericksburg.

**The Fredericksburg Area Museum & Cultural Center**, 907 Princess Anne Street, Fredericksburg, ☎ 540-371-3037, is located in the Old Town Hall and Market House. Six permanent galleries tell the story of the city's past from pre-historic times through the 20th century. Exhibits include items from the days of slavery: chains and musical instruments; antique furniture and silverware; Confederate memorabilia; an assortment of china, snuff boxes, evening bags, and much more.

The town hall building that stands today on Princess Anne Street was completed in 1816. It replaced an earlier town hall located on the Caroline Street side of two lots set aside by the trustees for use as a market. The original building was torn down and the site parceled out to local




merchants, leaving the inner market square much as it is today, with access via a narrow avenue from Caroline Street.

The new building was the site of a reception given for General Lafayette when he visited Fredericksburg in 1824 during his tour of America. It also housed the city government until 1982, making it one of longest continually used city halls in America. The building is open daily except Thanksgiving, December 24 and 25, and New Year's Day.

**Fredericksburg/Spotsylvania National Military Park:** The National Battlefield Park encompasses four major Civil War battlefields in the Fredericksburg area, and is dedicated to the more than 17,000 young men who died on those four great fields of glory. Visitors can retrace some of the history of the Battles of Fredericksburg, where Robert E. Lee's army smashed General Burnside's Grand Divisions from strategic positions behind the Stone Wall and on Marye's Heights; Chancellorsville, where Confederate General Stonewall Jackson lost his life to friendly fire, but where Lee was able to defeat a supremely overconfident Union General Fighting Joe Hooker; Spotsylvania Court House, the site of the "Bloody Angle," an intense engagement of bloody hand-to-hand combat between Union and Confederate armies; and the terrible Battle of the Wilderness that saw General Lee pitted against Union General US Grant for the first time. It ultimately turned the tide of war as Grant continued his march to Richmond.

The two visitor centers at Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville help interpret the four battlefields with audio-visual presentations and museum exhibits, including Civil War memorabilia, maps, and photographs. During the summer, Civil War living history is presented at several sites operated by the Park Service and guided walking tours led by knowledgeable park historians are also available in certain locations.

Be sure also to visit the **Stonewall Jackson Memorial Shrine**. From Fredericksburg, go 12 miles south on Interstate 95 to the Thornburg Exit, then five miles east on VA 606. There you will find the plantation office where Jackson, ill with pneumonia and his shattered left arm amputated, looked up and whispered, "Let us cross the river, and rest under the shade of the trees." Then he died.

The battlefields are open from dawn until dusk, and the visitor centers are open year-round from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m., except for Christmas and New Year's Day. Visitor center hours are extended during the summer. Fredericksburg Battlefield Visitor Center, 1013 Lafayette Boulevard, Fredericksburg, ☎ 540-373-6122. Chancellorsville Battlefield Visitor Center, Route 3 West, ☎ 540-786-2880.

**Fredericksburg Baptist Church**, 1019 Princess Anne Street, traces the origins of its congregation to 1767 and the beginning of the Baptist movement in Spotsylvania. The church itself, built in the Gothic Revival style, was completed in 1855 and is still in use today. But, like many other public buildings during the Civil War, it was used as a Union hospital and was heavily damaged by artillery fire.

**George Washington's Ferry Farm**, Route 3 East, across the river from Fredericksburg, is where the boy George Washington lived and grew, from 1738-1752. This is the setting for the story of the Cherry Tree. Open daily. ☎ 540-373-3381.

**The Hugh Mercer Apothecary Shop.** Hugh Mercer was a political refugee from Scotland who emigrated first to Pennsylvania, and then, in 1761, to Fredericksburg. After distinguishing himself fighting during the French and Indian War, he established his apothecary shop and doctor's office at the corner of Caroline and Amelia Streets in 1771.

From the very beginning, Mercer's life – both personal and business – was one of success and contentment. He married George Gordon's daughter – Gordon was the town's most popular tavern keeper – and in 1774 he bought Ferry Farm from his good friend, George Washington. Unfortunately, Mercer was mortally wounded at the Battle of Princeton in January, 1777. His five children were raised by George Weedon, his brother-in-law.

Today, the old apothecary shop, restored to its original condition, presents a living history presentation of 18th-century medicines and surgical procedures within the setting of an old-time doctor's office. These procedures included bloodletting, toothdrawing, and the removal of cataracts as attempted by Doctor Mercer.

The shop is located at 1020 Caroline Street, Fredericksburg, ☎ 540-373-3362. It is open daily except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day.

**The James Monroe Museum.** James Monroe was 28 years old when he moved to Fredericksburg to practice law under the guidance of his uncle, Judge Joseph Jones. For the first three years Monroe lived at the Jones home at 301 Caroline Street, a fine old house that still stands on lower Caroline Street, just blocks from the museum.

The museum is filled with all sorts of interesting artifacts and memorabilia. These include furniture and antiques purchased in Paris while Monroe was emissary to France, and used in the White House during his presidency. The collection also includes Monroe's elegant Louis XVI desk, many pieces of fine china, porcelain, silver, and jewelry, as well as articles of clothing and thousands of books, documents, maps, manuscripts and newspapers dating from the early 17th century.

The museum is at 908 Charles Street, Fredericksburg, and is open daily except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. ☎ 540-654-1043.

**Kenmore.** It was in 1747 that a young Fielding Lewis arrived with his new bride in Fredericksburg. His wife, Catherine Washington, was a first cousin of George Washington. Catherine Lewis died three years later in 1750 and Fielding Lewis married George's only sister, Betty, a few months later.

During the years that followed his second marriage, Lewis' enterprises prospered and he became a force in the local community. His magnificent mansion on Washington Avenue was completed in 1775 and contains three of the most elaborately decorated rooms of the period, including one

featured in Helen Comstock's book, *The 100 Best Rooms in America*. Today, visitors can enjoy the elegant surroundings, a cup of spiced tea and a piece of gingerbread, and perhaps get a feel for the elegant life led by a gentleman and his family during the late colonial period.

Kenmore is at 1201 Washington Avenue, Fredericksburg, and is open daily except Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. ☎ 540-373-3381.

**The Mary Washington House**. For the last 17 years of her life, Mary Ball Washington lived in the home that her son, George, had bought for her in 1773. Her daughter, Betty, resided nearby at Kenmore. And so the venerable Mrs. Washington was able to live out her remaining years in comfort, close to the people she loved and amid the hustle and bustle of the busy downtown streets. Today, her home offers a glimpse into the life of one America's most famous citizens. The old house is filled with all sorts of memorabilia, period furnishings, antiques, and many of her personal possessions, including her "best dressing glass," which she willed to her son, George. The house is at 1200 Charles Street, Fredericksburg, and is open daily except Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. ☎ 540-373-1569.

**Mary Washington Monument & Meditation Rock**. Mrs. Washington came here often to rest and pray and, at her request, was buried here when she died in 1789 at the age of 81. The monument is on Washington Avenue at Pitt Street.

**Masonic Lodge No. 4 A.F. and A.M.** Located at Princess Anne and Hanover Streets in Fredericksburg, the lodge is where George Washington was initiated into the order on November 4, 1752. The building, dating from 1812, contains relics of his initiation and membership, an authentic Gilbert Stuart portrait and the 300-year-old Bible on which Washington took his Masonic obligation. The lodge is open daily, but is closed Thanksgiving and Christmas day. ☎ 540-373-5885.

**National Bank Museum, A Bank for Fredericksburg**. This building at 900 Princess Anne Street, ☎ 540-899-3243, houses more than 200 years of banking history. The structure has served continuously as a bank since 1820. Open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.; closed all federal holidays.

**Old Slave Block**. This piece of pre-Civil War memorabilia, at the corner of William and Charles Streets, is a circular block of sandstone about three feet high, from which ladies mounted their horses and slaves and property were auctioned in antebellum days.

**The Old Stone Warehouse**, on Sophia Street at William Street, was constructed around the beginning of the War of 1812, possibly as a fortified building to defend the river landing and to store arms and ammunition. The old building has four floors, three of which are visible from the rear. Because the level of Sophia Street was raised between 1939 and

1941 to accommodate the new Chatham Bridge, only the second floor is accessible from the street.

During the Battle of Fredericksburg in December, 1862, the building was hit at least five times by Federal artillery. After the battle the warehouse served as a temporary morgue for some of the thousands of casualties.

From the end of the Civil War the warehouse played many roles in Fredericksburg's history. Today, the one-time warehouse, brewery, and fish curing house is owned by the city, administered by the Historic Fredericksburg Foundation, and leased to the Fredericksburg Area Chapter of the Archaeological Society of Virginia. There is a sign at the entrance giving information about designated tours.

**The Presbyterian Church**. The church is a Greek Revival building, circa 1833, located at the southwest corner of Princess Anne and George Streets. Damage sustained by artillery fire during the Battle of Fredericksburg can still be seen in the front pillar. After the battle the church pews were torn loose and made into coffins for soldiers. Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross, is said to have nursed the wounded here. A plaque to her memory is in the churchyard. ☎ 540-373-7057.

**The Rising Sun Tavern** was built as a private residence in 1760 by Charles Washington, George Washington's youngest brother. Charles lived in the house for 20 years before moving westward to establish the town we know today as Charles Town, West Virginia.

The house was leased to one John Frazer in 1792, who opened it as the Golden Eagle Tavern. The tavern prospered, serving merchants and sailors who worked in the bustling wharves and warehouses on the riverfront. Over the years the tavern, known to those who frequented it either as the Eagle or the Golden Eagle, saw many new owners come and go. Then, in 1821, it was renamed the Rising Sun, and it continued under that name until 1827, when it once again became a private residence.

Today the old tavern, restored and refurbished to its 18th-century appearance, offers a tiny window on what tavern life in the 1700s might have been like. The "tavern wenches" of today treat visitors just as they would have back in the days when John Frazer was "Mine Host."

The Rising Sun Tavern, a National Historic Landmark and a Virginia Historic Landmark, is at 1304 Caroline Street, Fredericksburg, ☎ 540-371-1494. It is open daily except Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day.

**Saint George's Church**. The first town church, located on the site of the present church next to the market square lots, was a small frame building completed in 1734. It was the local center for the Anglican Church in colonial Virginia. In 1786, the Anglican Church became the Protestant Episcopal Church and Saint George's continued under that banner for another 30 years or so. As the town's population continued to grow, so did

the congregation. Soon it had outgrown the tiny frame building, and a new church was built in 1816. It, too, was soon outgrown and a third church, the one that stands today, was completed and consecrated by Bishop William Meade in 1849. The town clock was installed in the church tower in 1850 and is maintained by the City of Fredericksburg.

During the Civil War the church was used by General Lee's troops for their services. Unfortunately, it was heavily damaged in 1862 during the Battle of Fredericksburg, and was used as a hospital during the Battle of the Wilderness. The church has three priceless Tiffany windows. A silver communion set, which was stolen in 1862, was gradually recovered, piece by piece, over a period of some 70 years. The fine box pews survived the Civil War. The original clear diamond-shaped glass panes have been replaced by stained glass; the Mary Ball Washington stained glass window is of special interest.

**The Silversmith House**, on the banks of the Rappahannock River at 813 Sophia Street, was built in the late 18th century as the residence of James Brown, the town's first prominent silversmith. During his lifetime, Brown trained several apprentices, of whom Henry White was the best known. White and his son, William Henry White, became the leading silversmiths and jewelers in the town during the 19th century. The old house sits on a foundation of massive sandstone blocks, which surely accounts for why it has managed to survive some two centuries of river floods. It now houses the Fredericksburg Center for the Creative Arts.

**Spotsylvania Court House Historic District**. Here you will find several interesting sites, many reconstructed after the Civil War. Sites include the **Spotsylvania Court House**, **the Spotswood Inn**, **Christ Episcopal Church**, **the Confederate Cemetery**, and the **old jail. The Spotsylvania County Museum** houses local artifacts and genealogical records in the Old Berea Church, which dates to 1856. It is open year-round. ☎ 540-582-7176.

## *Entertainment*

The Fredericksburg area offers a lively and diverse range of nightlife. Live music, from rock to jazz, country to zydeco, blues to bluegrass and soft piano to disco is available in many establishments.

**Riverside Dinner Theater**, 95 Riverside Parkway, Falmouth, ☎ 540-370-4300, features live Broadway musicals and dining. Shows and dinner Wednesday through Sunday.

**The Virginia Renaissance Faire** re-creates 16th-century England on weekends from May 1 through mid-June at 1175 King's Highway, Falmouth, ☎ 540-371-3999. In addition to costumed re-enactors, there is continuous entertainment on seven stages, games, food and shopping.

## *Shopping*

The Fredericksburg area abounds with shopping opportunities. For visitors interested in local arts and crafts, there are more than 35 businesses selling everything from pottery to copper goods, from basketry to weaving, and from jewelry to brass rubbings.

For the antique collector, the city and the surrounding area offer over 65 tiny shops, galleries, and stores, as well as several antique malls.

Or you can visit one of the area's shopping malls, including the **Spotsylvania Mall**, **Central Park**, the **Massaponax Outlet Mall**, and the **Aquia Towne Center**.

## *Recreation*

There are dozens of lakes, streams, rivers, wildlife management areas, natural areas, preserves and mountains all within a short drive of Fredericksburg.

**Abel Reservoir** is a 150-acre lake where the fishing is good. Species available include largemouth bass, bluegill, black crappie, pumpkinseed, walleye and channel catfish. A boat ramp is available for public use, but power on the lake is restricted to electric motors only. The lake is open year-round. Take US 17 north to State Route 616 north and then 651 east.

**Aquia Landing** is a public beach on State Route 608 in Stafford. Picnicking, fishing and swimming with a lifeguard, Memorial Day through Labor Day.

**Belvedere Plantation**, 1601 Belvedere Drive, Spotsylvania, ☎ 540-371-8494, offers hayrides, pony rides, hot dog roasts, a petting zoo, and pick-your-own pumpkins and vegetables in season.

**Central Park Funland**, 1351 Central Park Boulevard, Fredericksburg, ☎ 540-785-6700, has bumper boats and cars, race cars, arcade, climbing wall, and miniature golf. Open daily.

**Lake Anna** is a magnificent 13,000-acre water park. Several marinas provide access to the lake via boat ramps and boat rentals. Fishing tackle and bait are also available at the marinas. Activities include sailing, water-skiing, hiking, boating, picnicking and fishing for largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, yellow perch, bluegill, black crappie, pumpkinseed, walleye, pickerel, carp, striped bass, sunfish and channel catfish. Take US 1 south to State Route 208 west, and then go to State Route 601 north. ☎ 540-854-5503.

**Lake Anna State Park**. While you will surely enjoy your visit to Lake Anna, you will also enjoy the beach facilities at this beautiful park. The

visitor center offers many interpretive exhibits, including a complete history of gold mining in the area, after which you too can try your luck panning for gold. Or you might like to spend a little time close to nature picnicking in the park, soaking up the sun on the beach, or strolling the park's more than eight miles of trails. The park is adjacent to Route 601 off State Route 208. ☎ 540-854-5503.

**Lake Curtis** is a 91-acre lake with a boat ramp, and lots of largemouth bass, bluegill, black crappie, pumpkinseed, walleye, tiger musky and channel catfish. The lake is open from 8 a.m. until dusk. Electric power only is allowed on the lake. Take US 17 north to State Route then 616 north to 662 west.

**Motts Reservoir** offers 160 acres of outdoor enjoyment. Facilities and activities include a boat ramp, boat rentals, picnicking and hiking, and fishing for largemouth bass, bluegill, black crappie, pumpkinseed, walleye, tiger musky, northern pike and channel catfish. The lake is open daily from 6 a.m. until 7 p.m. Electric power only is allowed on the lake. Take State Route 3 west to Route 639 north to State Route 618 west.

**Ni Reservoir** is a 417-acre lake where you can enjoy a variety of outdoor activities, including hiking, boating, picnicking and fishing for largemouth bass, bluegill, black crappie, pumpkinseed, walleye, striped bass, sunfish and channel catfish. There's a boat ramp for public use, and boats are available for rental. The lake is open daily from 6 a.m. until 8 p.m. or 30 minutes before sunset, whichever is earlier. Take State Route 3 west, and then State Route 627 south.

**The Rappahannock River** runs from the Blue Ridge Mountains down to the Chesapeake Bay. Public access to the river is available in Fredericksburg at Motts Landing, River Road, Telephone and City Dock. Parking is available at Falmouth Beach in Stafford County. The fishing in the river for smallmouth bass, redeye, pickerel, bluegill, blue catfish, and channel catfish is quite good.

**The Rapidan River** runs from the Blue Ridge Mountains into the Rappahannock River. Public access for canoe launching is available at Eley's ford, just off State Route 610 (Eley's Ford Road) in Spotsylvania, or at Germanna Ford off State Route 3. The fishing in the Rapidan for smallmouth bass, redeye and bluegill, and channel catfish is considered good.

**The Caledon Natural Area** is 10 miles from Fredericksburg in King George County on State Route 218 east. Caledon is the summer home of one of the largest concentrations of American bald eagles on the East Coast.

**The Phelps Wildlife Management Area** is about five miles north of Fredericksburg via US Highway 17 and then Summerduck. Public hunting is available. ☎ 540-899-4169.

### *Golf*

Quality golf is available year-round in the Fredericksburg area. For golf packages, ☎ 800-GOLF885.

**Augustine Golf Club**, 76 Monument Drive, Stafford, ☎ 540-720-7374, is an 18-hole, par-71 championship course. There is a clubhouse and pro shop.

**The Gauntlet at Curtis Park**, 10 miles from Exit 133-B of I-95, ☎ 540-752-0963, is an 18-hole, par-72 championship course.

**Lee's Hill Golfer's Club**, 10200 Old Dominion Parkway, Spotsylvania, ☎ 800-930-3636, is an 18-hole, par-72 championship course with a full clubhouse and practice facilities.

**Meadows Farm Golf Course**, 4300 Flat Run Road, Locust Grove, ☎ 540-854-9890, has three separate nines, for a total of 27 holes.

### *Indoor Recreation*

Wet weather needn't dampen your visit to Fredericksburg. Many of the historic sites welcome visitors, rain or shine, and then, of course, there's always the movies. **The Aquia Movie 10** is at 2850 Jefferson Davis Highway, ☎ 540-659-3200; **Marquee Cinemas** are at 5800 Southpoint Boulevard, ☎ 540-710-0401; **Movies of Fredericksburg** are on Route 3 West, across from the Spotsylvania Mall, ☎ 540-786-4900; **The Spotsylvania Mall Cinema** is in the Spotsylvania Mall, ☎ 540-786-4456; and **Virginian's Theatres** are at 4200 Lafayette Boulevard, ☎ 540-898-1260.

**Cavalier Family Skating Center**, 1924 Jefferson David Highway, ☎ 540-657-0758, offers roller skating and blading, rentals, and a video arcade.

**The Sports Garden**, 20 Greenspring Drive, Stafford, ☎ 540-657-1700, has 20 bowling lanes, laser tag, an arcade, and an indoor playground and restaurant.

## *Annual Events*

Unless otherwise noted, contact the **Fredericksburg Department of Tourism** (☎ 800-678-4748) for more information on the events below.

**Washington's Birthday** is celebrated in a big way in Fredericksburg, with Colonial games, tours, crafts, and entertainment at various locations.

**The Historic Garden Week**. Many of Fredericksburg's private homes are open to the public during this event, usually held during the last week in April.

**The Virginia Renaissance Faire** is held on weekends from mid-April through mid-June at 1175 King's Highway, Falmouth, ☎ 540-371-3999.

**The Rappahannock Regional Rodeo** is held in May at the Fredericksburg Fairgrounds.

**The Fredericksburg Heritage Festival** is a city-wide, day-long celebration of Fredericksburg's rich and varied Colonial, Revolutionary, and Civil War past, featuring live entertainment, the Great Rappahannock River Raft Race, a Chili cook-off and much more. The fun begins at 8 a.m. and continues until 10 p.m. on July 4th.

**Fredericksburg Agricultural Fair** is the nation's oldest, dating to 1738. It is held at the end of July through the first week of August at the Fredericksburg Fairgrounds.

**The Annual Children's Art Expo** means lots of messy and creative fun for children of all ages beginning 10 a.m. and ending at 2 p.m. The event is held at Hurkamp Park in Fredericksburg during the first weekend in August.

**The Fredericksburg Wine Festival** is a popular annual event that features a day of wine tasting, seminars, music, food, crafts, grape stomping, and children's activities. It's held the second week in August.

Fredericksburg's **Annual Rubber Duck Race** features thousands of rubber ducks drifting down the Rappahannock in mid-September. Starts at Old Mill Park.

**The Annual Black Arts Festival** showcases African-American art, entertainment and vendors in mid-September at Walker-Grant Educational and Cultural Center in Fredericksburg.

**The Annual Outdoor Antiques Fair** is held in late September and attracts dealers from throughout the eastern US to Maury Field in Fredericksburg. ☎ 800-678-4748.

**The Annual Dog Mart** was originally a day of trading between the Indians and the settlers. Today, it has evolved to become a day of crafts, Indian events, rides, and a dog show. It is America's oldest dog show, more than 300 years in the running. The event is held at Spotsylvania County's Izaac Walton League Park the first week in October. ☎ 800-654-4118.

Fredericksburg's **Annual Haunted House** is held mid-October through Halloween at a location to be announced.

**The Annual Craft Show** is held during the second week in November and brings craftspeople from all over the state to show and sell their handiwork. The event is held at the National Guard Armory in Fredericksburg, and admission is free. ☎ 800-678-4748.

**The Annual Christmas Parade** through Old Town Fredericksburg is the first Saturday in December. ☎ 800-678-4748.

During the **Christmas Candlelight Tour**, Fredericksburg's historic homes and public buildings are open to the public and are decorated for the holiday season. The event, held the first weekend in December, features carriage rides, Christmas carolers, decorations, costumed hostesses and musicians, as well as refreshments of the Colonial period. ☎ 800-678-4748.

**First Night Fredericksburg** rings in the New Year in Old Town Fredericksburg on December 31. More than 20 venues feature visual and performing arts. ☎ 800-678-4748.

## *Wineries*

**Hartwood Winery**, 245 Hartwood Road, Hartwood, ☎ 540-752-4893, offers free tours and tastings, and a gift shop. Open Wednesday through Sunday.

**Lake Anna Winery**, 5621 Courthouse Road, Spotsylvania, ☎ 540-895-5085, or visit www.lawinery.com. Free tours and tastings of award-winning wines in a renovated barn.

**Spotted Tavern Winery & Cider Mill**, Hartwood Road at Dodd's Corner, Hartwood, ☎ 540-752-4453. The winery offers a selection of wine and cider in season.

## *Dining*

There are at least 90 locally owned and operated dining establishments in the Fredericksburg area. They offer a variety of menus from traditional American fare to a wide range of ethnic delights at prices that range from ridiculously cheap to fairly expensive. The following is only a small sample of what you can expect to find. All are in Fredericksburg, unless otherwise indicated.

**Andrew's Mediterranean Bounty**, 600 William Street, Fredericksburg, ☎ 540-370-0909, offers fine Mediterranean cuisine.

**Claiborne's Chop House**, 200 Lafayette Boulevard, Fredericksburg, ☎ 540-371-7080, serves steaks and chops in the renovated train station.

**Fat Tuesdays**, 315 Garrisonville Road, Stafford, ☎ 540-720-5757. The restaurant specializes in New Orleans-style food, and there's a raw bar and a saloon. It is open for lunch and dinner, and there is live entertainment on the weekends.

**The Garden Terrace** at the Ramada Inn South, 5324 Jefferson Davis Highway, ☎ 540-898-1102. The restaurant offers indoor poolside dining, and features fresh seafood, choice steaks and country cooking. Prices are quite reasonable and the restaurant is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

**The General Store**, 2018 College Avenue, Fredericksburg, ☎ 540-371-4075, specializes in pasta, burgers and sandwiches.

**La Petite Auberge**, 311 William Street, Fredericksburg, ☎ 540-371-2727. The restaurant offers fine French cuisine and fresh seafood. Beer, wine and cocktails are available. Prices are reasonable and the restaurant is open for lunch and dinner.

**Merriman's**, 715 Caroline Street, Fredericksburg, ☎ 540-371-7723, offers innovative seasonal dishes.

**The Olde Mudd Tavern** is a half-mile west of Interstate 95, Exit 118, at US 1 and Mudd Tavern Road, in Thornburg, ☎ 540-582-5250. The restaurant offers fine dining at reasonable prices in a Colonial atmosphere. The menu features beef, fresh seafood, and daily specials, and there is live entertainment. Beer, wine and cocktails are available. Open for lunch and dinner.

**The Olde Towne Steak and Seafood**, 1612 Caroline Street, Fredericksburg, ☎ 540-371-8020, specializes in fresh seafood and prime rib. Beer, wine and cocktails are served. Open daily for dinner. Prices are reasonable to expensive.

**Ristorante Renato**, 422 William Street, Fredericksburg, ☎ 540-371-8228. Open for lunch and dinner, the restaurant offers authentic Italian cuisine, plus steaks and fresh seafood. Prices are reasonable.

**Sammy T's**, 801 Caroline Street, Fredericksburg, ☎ 540-371-2008, serves vegan and vegetarian fare, homemade soups, salads and sandwiches.

**Smythe's Cottage and Tavern**, 303 Fauquier Street, Fredericksburg, ☎ 540-373-1645. Smythe's is set in an early 1800s cottage, and offers candlelight or outdoor dining. The cuisine is American, including beef, chicken, pot pies, roast pork and fresh seafood. Beer, wine and cocktails are also available. Prices are quite reasonable. Open for lunch and dinner.



## *Accommodations*

Most establishments offer both handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms, but be sure to ask when making reservations.

### *Hotels & Motels*

All are in Fredericksburg, unless otherwise indicated.

**Best Western-Thunderbird Inn**, 3000 Plank Road, ☎ 540-786-7404. This small motel has 76 rooms, including handicapped and non-smoking rooms. Free continental breakfast; senior citizen discount. $

**Comfort Inn-North**, 557 Warrenton Road, ☎ 540-371-8900. This small hotel has 80 rooms, including handicapped-accessible rooms and 10 kitchen units. Facilities and services include an indoor pool, free coffee in the lobby, meeting rooms and an exercise room. Senior citizen discount. $$

**Days Inn North**, 14 Simpson Road, ☎ 540-373-5340. This medium-sized hotel has 120 rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. Free continental breakfast; discounts for seniors. $-$$

**Hampton Inn Fredericksburg**, 2310 William Street, ☎ 540-371-0330. This medium-sized hotel has 166 rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking. Free continental breakfast; senior citizen discount. $$

**Holiday Inn/Fredericksburg North**, 564 Warrenton Road, ☎ 540-371-5550. This medium-sized hotel has 150 rooms, including handicapped-accessible rooms and non-smoking rooms. Facilities and services include cable TV, a swimming pool, a wading pool, a café, room service, a bar and entertainment and dancing on Friday and Saturday. There's also a coin laundry and several meeting rooms. Discounts for senior citizens. $-$$

**Quality Inn Fredericksburg**, 543 Warrenton Road, ☎ 540-373-0000. This small hotel has 86 rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. Facilities and services include free morning coffee, cable TV, an outdoor swimming pool and a playground. Senior citizen discount. $$

**Ramada Inn-Spotsylvania Mall**, 2802 Plank Road, ☎ 540-786-8361. This medium-sized hotel has 129 rooms, including handicapped rooms and non-smoking rooms. Facilities and services include cable TV, a pool, a café, room service, several meeting rooms and valet service. Pets accepted. Senior citizen discount. $$

**Sheraton Inn Fredericksburg**, 2801 Plank Road, ☎ 540-786-8321. This medium-sized hotel has 200 rooms, including handicapped rooms and non-smoking rooms. Facilities and services include cable TV, a swimming pool with a lifeguard on duty, a wading pool and poolside service. There are also several meeting rooms, tennis courts and an 18-hole golf course for guest use. Free airport transportation; discounts for senior citizens. $$

**Sleep Inn**, 595 Warrenton Road, ☎ 540-372-6868. This small hotel has 68 rooms, including handicapped rooms and non-smoking rooms. Free coffee in the lobby, and free continental breakfast. $$

❖ *For a complete list of the hotels and motels in the Fredericksburg/Spotsylvania/Stafford area, contact the Fredericksburg Department of Tourism at 706 Caroline Street, Fredericksburg, VA 22401, ☎ 800-678-4748.*

## *Bed & Breakfasts / Inns*

**Braehead Bed and Breakfast**, 123 Lee Drive, ☎ 540-899-3648, is located within the Fredericksburg Battlefield Park. It is operated by fifth-generation descendants of the original owners of the 1859 house where Robert E. Lee breakfasted the morning of the battle. There are three guest rooms with private baths. $$$

**Fredericksburg Colonial Inn**, 1707 Princess Anne Street. ☎ 540-371-5666. This two-story inn has 36 rooms. It was built in 1928 and offers guests an antebellum atmosphere and rooms individually decorated with antiques. Complimentary coffee and continental breakfast. $$

**The Guest House at Walnut Grove**, 7508 Belmont Road, Spotsylvania, ☎ 540-854-7993, is a circa-1730 home in a rural setting. $$

**Hillcrest Farm B&B**, 1487 Garrisonville Road, Stafford, ☎ 540-752-9341, has four guest rooms with en-suite baths in a Victorian theme. There is an outdoor pool. $$

**The Kenmore Inn**, 1200 Princess Anne Street, ☎ 540-371-7622. The two-story structure is in the historic district of Fredericksburg and was built in the late 1700s. There are 12 rooms, four with fireplaces, some with canopied beds, all with antiques and reproduction furniture. TV is available in the lounge. The dining room is open for lunch and dinner, and there is a bar. Room service is available. Parking is on the street. Free coffee and continental breakfast. $$-$$$

**La Vista Plantation Bed and Breakfast**, 4420 Guinea Station Road, Spotsylvania, ☎ 800-529-2823, has rooms decorated with antiques in a country setting. $$

**Littlepage Inn**, 15701 Monrovia Road, Spotsylvania, ☎ 800-248-1803, www.littlepage.com, is an 1811 plantation home that has been in the family for six generations. There are five guest rooms, plus a renovated barn with three rooms. $$$

**On Keegan Pond Bed and Breakfast**, 11315 Gordon Road, ☎ 888-785-4662, is located between two Civil War battlefields. Private baths and full breakfast. $$

**Richard Johnston Inn**, 711 Caroline Street. ☎ 540-899-7606. The inn is an 18th-century townhouse near the Fredericksburg Visitor Center, on the banks of the Rappahannock River. The elegant inn features antiques and period furnishings, and offers an old-world atmosphere of gentility and Southern hospitality. Eight rooms. Totally non-smoking. $-$$$

**The Selby House Bed and Breakfast**, 226 Princess Anne Street. ☎ 540-373-7037. This is a fine old Victorian house with four guest rooms; two are handicapped-accessible, all have private bath. A full breakfast is included. $$

## *Camping*

**Aquia Pines Campground**, 3071 Jefferson Davis Highway, Stafford, VA 22554, ☎ 540-659-3447, is convenient to the nation's capital. The campground features 125 sites, 75 with full hookups, and 31 with cable TV and optional telephone hookups. There are five rental cabins and group sites for tents and RVs. They have flush toilets, hot showers, sewage disposal, laundry, public telephone and a grocery store where campers can purchase RV supplies and ice.

There is a recreation hall, a pavilion, a game room with coin-operated games, mini-golf, a swimming pool, a playground, and planned group activities. Local tours and escorted tours of Washington DC are also available. The campground is open all year.

**The Dukes Creek Marina Campground** is on beautiful Lake Anna and offers 50 sites, boat launching facilities, and a store selling supplies and food. Rental boats, fishing tackle and bait are available at the marina. Activities at Dukes Creek include sailing, water-skiing, hiking, boating, picnicking and fishing for largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, yellow perch, bluegill, black crappie, pumpkinseed, walleye, pickerel, carp, striped bass, sunfish and channel catfish. For more information, contact the Dukes Creek Marina, 3631 Breaknock Road, ☎ 540-895-5065.

**Fredericksburg KOA Campground** is a semi-wooded campground south of Fredericksburg on Highway 607, ☎ 540-898-7252. From the junction of Interstate 95 and US 1 go four miles south on US 1, and then turn east on Highway 607 for about 2½ miles to the campground. Facilities include 115 sites, 33 with full hookups, 61 with water and electric, 21 with no hookups. There are 49 pull-throughs. Other facilities include group sites for tents and RVs, flush toilets, hot showers, sewage disposal, laundry, public telephone and a grocery store where campers can purchase RV supplies, and ice.

There is a recreation hall, a game room with coin-operated games, a swimming pool, paddleboat rentals, a well-stocked fishing pond, bike rentals, a playground, planned group activities on weekends, horseshoes, volleyball, hayrides, and local tours. The campground is open all year. Credit cards are accepted.

**The Rocky Branch Marina and Campground** is on Lake Anna at 5153 Courthouse Road, ☎ 540-895-5475. Facilities include 38 sites with water and electric hookups, 25 tent sites, five boat ramps, a bathhouse with flush toilets and showers, and a store where campers can obtain boat rentals, fishing tackle and bait. Activities at Lake Anna include sailing, water-skiing, hiking, boating, picnicking and fishing for largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, yellow perch, bluegill, black crappie, pumpkinseed, walleye, pickerel, carp, striped bass, sunfish and channel catfish.

## Transportation

Fredericksburg is served by several trains daily by **Amtrak**, ☎ 800-872-7245, and commuter trains to Washington DC. The station is at Caroline Street and Lafayette Boulevard.

**Greyhound Lines, Inc.**, ☎ 800-231-2222, serves the city daily from 1400 Jefferson Davis Highway.

Several companies provide **taxi service**, including Bumbrey's, ☎ 540-373-6111, Hilldrup, ☎ 540-373-8294, Yellow Cab, ☎ 540-371-7075, and City Cab, ☎ 540-372-4484.

## Information

**The Fredericksburg Visitor Center**, 706 Caroline Street, is a great place to begin your visit, and is an interesting site in itself. Built in 1824 by a local confectioner, Anthony Kale, it was first used as his shop and residence. During the Civil War, Union soldiers used the house as a holding area for local prisoners. There is an audio-visual orientation, and much information on lodging, dining and attractions. It is open daily from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. ☎ 540-373-1776 or 800-678-4748, or visit www.fredericksburgva.com.

**The Spotsylvania County Visitor Center**, is at 4704 Southpoint Parkway, Spotsylvania, ☎ 540-891-8687 or 800-654-4118. There is a 10-minute video on the entire region, maps, brochures and discount tickets available. Open daily 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., with extended summer hours. Closed Thanksgiving, December 24 and 25, and New Year's.

## Tours

There are several guided and self-guided sightseeing tours of Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania County.

**The Civil War Walking Tour** is a two-part brochure available at the Fredericksburg visitors center. It includes sites in the Battle of Fredericksburg.

**The Footsteps of George Washington** is a driving tour that includes several sites in the Frederiscksburg area. ☎ 804-786-4484 for a brochure.

**Fredericksburg Carriage Tours** offers a 45-minute tour in a horse-drawn carriage, departing from Caroline Street, in front of the Fredericksburg Visitor Center. ☎ 540-752-5567.

**Lee vs. Grant: The 1864 Campaign** traces the route of Grant's Overland Campaign beginning in Spotsylvania County. It is part of Virginia's

Civil War Trails, a driving tour that marks Civil War sites across the state. Brochures are available at visitors centers, or ☎ 888-CIVIL-WAR.

**Living History Experience**, ☎ 540-899-1776, offers costumed actor/historians as guides to the city, battlefield and phantoms of Fredericksburg.

**River Cruise *City of Fredericksburg***, ☎ 800-598-2628, offers lunch and dinner cruises on the Rappahannock River daily except Mondays, April through November.

**Trolley Tours of Fredericksburg**, ☎ 540-898-0737, offers daily 60-minute tours of the historic district.

**The Walk Through History Brochure Series** is offered at the Fredericksburg Visitor Center. Five brochures focus on several neighborhoods' history and architecture.

# Leesburg & Loudoun County

Leesburg was originally named Georgetown for the English king, George III. It was later renamed Leesburg, most probably for Francis Lightfoot Lee, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence and a respected local landowner. Leesburg is located in Loudoun County amid rolling hills and exceptional natural beauty. It's an area where picturesque country towns and thoroughbred horse farms are scattered from one end to the other, and where fox hunting, point-to-point horse racing, steeple chasing, and horse shows are extremely popular.

## *Sights*

**Waterford**, about five miles to the northwest of Leesburg on Virginia Highway 662, is an 18th-century Quaker village, designated a National Historic Landmark, and fully restored as a residential community. Visitors can take self-guided walking tours – brochures are available at the Waterford Foundation in the village – and there's an Annual Tour of Homes held during the first weekend in October. The celebration also features exhibits, crafts demonstrations, and traditional music.

**The Loudoun Museum**, 16 Loudoun Street in Leesburg, is a century-old restored building containing a number of interesting exhibits and memorabilia. There's also an audio-visual presentation that interprets life in the Loudoun County area. The museum is open daily but closed Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's. ☎ 703-777-7427.

**Morven Park**, 17263 Southern Planter Lane, Leesburg, was originally the home of Thomas Swan, a former governor of Maryland. The estate

was enlarged and improved by Westmoreland Davis, governor of Virginia from 1918 to 1922. Today, the 1,200-acre park includes the 28-room mansion, beautiful boxwood gardens, the Windmill Carriage Collection with its more than 100 horse-drawn carriages, the Museum of Hounds and Hunting, which features a video presentation and a variety of artifacts depicting the history of fox-hunting through the ages, and the Morven Park International Equestrian Institute. Morven Park is open daily April through October. ☎ 703-777-2414.

**Oatlands Plantation**, on Route 15 six miles south of Leesburg, is a Greek-Revival mansion built in 1803 by George Carter on a 260-acre estate. The mansion and park were once the center of a 5,000-acre plantation. The house was extensively remodeled in 1827; the front portico was added during that time. Most of the building materials, including the bricks and wood, came from or were manufactured on the estate. The antique furnishings are American, English and French, collected mostly during the years 1897 to 1965 when the property was owned by Mr. and Mrs. William Corcoran Eustis of Washington. The estate has its own equestrian center, where horse shows and racing events are held. The formal gardens feature one of the finest displays of boxwood in the US. Oatlands is open daily late March through December and may also be booked for private functions. ☎ 703-777-3174.

**Ball's Bluff Regional Park**, north of Leesburg on US Highway 15, features the smallest national cemetery in the United States. It also marks the site of a Civil War battle that took place on October 21, 1861. The battle resulted in a devastating defeat for four Union regiments by an overwhelmingly superior Confederate force. By the end of the fighting the Federal forces had been driven back to the banks of the Potomac River, where many of them were killed, drowned, wounded or captured as they tried to escape across the river. The Union general commanding the Federal forces, a US Senator, was among those killed. Oliver Wendell Holmes, who was wounded in the action, was one of the most prominent names in a list of casualties that numbered more than half of the Union force. Ball's Bluff Battlefield is open daily except for Thanksgiving, Christmas Day, and New Year's. ☎ 703-779-9372.

**Aldie Mill**, on Route 50 in Aldie, ☎ 703-327-9777, was built around 1807. It's a grist mill powered by twin-shot water wheels. Open April through October on Sundays from noon until 5 p.m.

**Goose Creek Stone Bridge**, in Middleburg, was built around 1810 as part of Ashby's Gap Turnpike.

**John S. Mosby Heritage Area**, ☎ 540-687-6681, near Middleburg, was commonly known as "Mosby's Confederacy." The driving tour takes in the historic, cultural and natural sights in the area.

**Lanesville Heritage Area**, in Claude Moore Park, Sterling, is 357-acre park with an 18th-century house. Open year-round.

**Lovettsville Historical Society**, 4 E. Pennsylvania Avenue, Lovettsville, ☎ 540-822-5499, is located in a former store and houses exhibits on the German settlement. Open May through December.

**Mt. Zion Church**, on Route 50 in Aldie, ☎ 703-777-0343, is an 1851 church which was the meeting point for John S. Mosby's partisan rangers, and was used as a prison, hospital and burial grounds for both sides during the Civil War. Open daily.

## *Wineries and Breweries*

**Breaux Vineyards**, 13860 Harpers Ferry Road, Purcellville, ☎ 540-668-6299, has tasting room with views of the winery operation and the Blue Ridge Mountains. Light gourmet fare is served on the patio. Open Thursday through Monday. For more information, visit www.breauxvineyards.com.

**Loudoun Valley Vineyards & Winery**, 38638 Old Wheatland Road, Waterford, ☎ 540-882-3375, has a glass-walled tasting room and decks with views of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Enjoy freshly baked bread and imported cheeses with wine tastings. Visit www.loudounvalleyvineyards.com.

**Old Dominion Brewing Company**, 44633 Guilford Drive, Ashburn, ☎ 703-724-9100, offers more than 20 beers and free tours of the microbrewery and brewpub. Open for tours on Saturdays and Sundays.

**Shadwell-Windham Winery**, 14727 Mountain Road, Hillsboro, ☎ 540-668-6464, holds picnics and wine tastings at the farm pond on the fourth weekend of each month, weather permitting.

**Swedenburg Estate Vineyard**, Winery Lane, Middleburg, ☎ 540-687-5219, is located on the circa-1762 Valley View Farm, which is still in operation. Open daily.

**Tarara Vineyard and Winery**, 13648 Tarara Lane, Leesburg, ☎ 703-771-7100, features wines aged in a 6,000-square-foot cave overlooking the Potomac River. Tours and tastings offered daily; on weekends only in January and February. Visit www.tarara.com.

**Willowcroft Farm Vineyards**, 38906 Mt. Gilead Road, Leesburg, ☎ 703-777-8161, is Loudoun County's oldest winery. Located on Mount Gilead, with views of Loudoun Valley. Open March through December, Wednesday through Sunday.

## *Annual Events*

**First Friday Gallery Walks** are held each month except January, with open houses at art galleries and specialty shops in Leesburg's historic district. ☎ 800-752-6118.

**The Homes and Gardens Tour**, held over the last weekend in April, is sponsored by the Garden Club of Virginia. ☎ 800-752-6118.

**Spring Antiques Fair**, Oatlands Plantation, Leesburg, ☎ 703-771-3174, attracts more than 200 exhibitors in late April.

**Spring Point-to-Point Races**, Oatlands Plantation, Leesburg, mid-April, ☎ 703-771-3174.

**Leesburg Flower and Garden Show**, held in late April in Historic Leesburg, ☎ 800-752-6118.

**Middleburg Garden Tour** is held in mid-May, ☎ 800-752-6118.

**Hunt Country Stable Tour**, Memorial Day Weekend, ☎ 800-752-6118.

**Spring Farm Tour** of two dozen farms and wineries throughout Loudon County in early June. Farms, equestrian centers and historic sites are on this free, self-guided tour. Brochure available from the Loudon Tourism Council, ☎ 800-752-6118 or www.loudounva.com/rural_econ.

**Aldie Mill Art Show** brings more than 70 artists to Aldie for two weekends in June, ☎ 800-752-6118.

**Potomac Celtic Festival** is held in mid-June at Morven Park Equestrian Center, Leesburg, ☎ 800-752-6118.

**Eyewitness to War** is a mid-June Civil War re-enactment at Mount Zion Church in the Mosby Heritage Area, ☎ 800-752-6118.

**The Old Dominion Beer Festival** features beer from more than 50 microbreweries, with food and entertainment, during the last weekend in June at the Old Dominion Brewery on Loudon County Parkway in Ashburn, ☎ 800-752-6118 or www.olddominion.com.

**August Court Days** are a graphic re-enactment of the opening of the 18th-century judicial court. The festivities include a country fair which features interesting exhibits, stalls, crafts demonstrations, games and music. The event is held during the third weekend in August. ☎ 800-752-6118.

**The Great Grape Celebration** in late September allows visitors to view the harvest and taste the wines of nine Virginia wineries at Tarara Winery, Leesburg, ☎ 800-752-6118.

**Annual Waterford Homes Tour & Crafts Exhibit** is Virginia's oldest juried crafts fair, held in a National Historic Landmark Village the first weekend of October, ☎ 540-882-3018.

**Fall Farm Color Tour** is a self-guided tour of private farms throughout Loundon County, with pumpkin-picking and hayrides, the third weekend in October. For brochure, call ☎ 800-752-6118 or 703-777-0400; www.loudounva.com/rural_econ.

**Leesburg Hauntings**, held the weekend before Halloween, is a walking tour of buildings in Historic Leesburg that are believed to be haunted. ☎ 703-777-0099.

**Christmas at Oatlands**, held mid-November through December, features a candlelight tour and 1800s decorations. ☎ 703-777-3174.

**Waterford Concert Series**, The Old School, Waterford, ☎ 540-882-3018, presents world-renowned artists on Sunday afternoons.

## *Dining*

**Ball's Bluff Tavern**, 2-D Loudoun Street SW, Leesburg, ☎ 703-777-7757, is where past meets present and north meets south. Open daily for lunch and dinner.

**Bella Luna Restaurant** is in the Colonial Inn Hotel, 21 S. King Street, Leesburg, ☎ 703-777-5000. The dining room is open for lunch and dinner.

**Cheng's Restaurant**, Route 7 in Sterling, ☎ 703-450-0439, is a local favorite for Chinese food. Open for lunch and dinner daily; Sunday buffet.

**The Green Tree Restaurant**, 15 S. King Street, Leesburg, ☎ 703-777-7246, has been ranked among the best restaurants in the Metropolitan Washington area. Specialties of the house include Robert's Delight (a beef dish), Jefferson's Delight (calves' liver soaked in milk), bread pudding, and in-house baking. On the weekends, 18th-century music is offered. Open for lunch and dinner.

**The King's Court Tavern**, 2-C Loudoun Street SW, Leesburg, ☎ 703-777-7747. Dine as travelers did in Colonial days, with a good meal, a glass of spirits and a good story.

**The Laurel Brigade Inn**, 20 W. Market Street, Leesburg, ☎ 703-777-1010, is open for lunch and dinner and offers an à la carte dinner menu. Specialties of the house include fried chicken and stuffed flounder. The oldest section of the inn dates from 1759 and features Colonial decor, stone walls and a fine old fireplace.

**Pacific Rim**, 46240 Potomac Run Plaza, Sterling, ☎ 703-404-5500, offers the flavors of the Pacific Rim, including Thai, Vietnamese and Polynesian cuisine. Open for lunch and dinner. There is also a high tea and Sunday buffet.

**Tuscarora Mill**, 203 Harrison Street SE, Leesburg, ☎ 703-771-9300, offers fine dining, seasonal specials and an extensive wine and microbrew list. Open for lunch and dinner daily.

# Accommodations

Most establishments offer both handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms, but be sure to ask when making reservations.

## Hotels & Motels

**Best Western Leesburg-Dulles**, 726 E. Market Street, Leesburg, ☎ 703-777-9400, has 99 rooms, an outdoor heated pool and picnic area, in-room coffee, irons and ironing boards. $$

**Fairfield Inn-Dulles Airport**, 23000 Indian Creek Drive, Sterling, ☎ 703-435-5300, has 106 guest rooms, free continental breakfast, airport shuttle and an indoor pool. $$

**Hampton Inn**, 45440 Holiday Drive, Sterling, ☎ 703-471-8300, has 127 rooms, and offers a complimentary continental breakfast and 24-hour airport shuttle. $$-$$$

**Holiday Inn at Historic Carradoc Hall** is a Colonial mansion at 1500 E. Market Street, Leesburg, VA 22075, ☎ 703-771-9200. The hotel has 126 rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. Facilities include an outdoor swimming pool, The Mansion House Restaurant, and the Light Horse Tavern. $$

**Holiday Inn-Leesburg**, 1500 E. Market Street, ☎ 703-771-9200, has 226 rooms in a historic country setting. There is a restaurant, tavern, and airport shuttle. $$-$$$

**Sumner Suites**, 21481 Ridgetop Circle, Sterling, ☎ 703-444-3909, is a six-story all-suite hotel. There are 135 suites, all with microwaves, wet bar, iron and ironing board, sleeper sofa, and work desk. There is a complimentary breakfast, outdoor pool, exercise facilities, and free airport shuttle. $$$

**Washington Dulles Airport Marriott**, 45020 Aviation Drive, ☎ 703-471-9500, is on 21 wooded acres adjacent to the airport and has 367 rooms. $$-$$$

## Resort

**Landsdowne Resort**, 44050 Woodridge Parkway, Leesburg, ☎ 703-729-8400, has 305 guest rooms with views of the Potomac River. There is a championship golf course, spa, health club and children's programs. $$$

## Bed & Breakfasts / Inns

There are more than two dozen inns and bed and breakfasts in the area. Following is just a sampling, featuring at least one from each part of the county. *For a complete list, contact the **Loudoun County Bed & Breakfast Guild**, ☎ 800-752-6118 or visit www.vabb.com.*

**Buckskin Manor**, 13452 Harpers Ferry Road, Purcellville, ☎ 540-668-6864, has three guest rooms with private baths and a self-contained cottage. There is a pool, pond, and breakfast is served. $$$

**Catoctin House Inn**, 36959 Charles Town Pike, Hillsboro, ☎ 540-668-6725, was built in 1780 and features antique-filled rooms and private baths. $$-$$$

**Goodstone Inn**, 36205 Snake Hill Road, Middleburg, ☎ 540-687-4645, has 11 rooms with private baths, a swimming pool, hot tub, massage, canoes, mountain bicycles, hiking and birdwatching. Horses welcome. $$$

**Laurel Brigade Inn**, 20 W. Market Street, Leesburg, ☎ 703-777-1010, has seven rooms decorated with fine antiques; each has a private bath. There is a restaurant serving traditional Colonial fare. The inn is located in the downtown historic district. $$

**The Leesburg Colonial Inn**, 21 S. King Street, Leesburg, ☎ 703-777-5000, offers guests a choice of 10 well-appointed rooms and suites, some with whirlpools and wet bars, cable TV and fireplaces. There's also a dining room and a café. The inn features lots of antiques and an old-world atmosphere. A complimentary full breakfast is served. $$-$$$

**The Middleburg Country Inn** at 209 E. Washington Street, Middleburg, ☎ 800-262-6082, is a former Episcopal parsonage built of brick. Guests have a choice of eight guest rooms, six with private bath, and some with fireplaces. Complimentary full breakfast, free coffee in the sitting room, and free airport transportation. $$$

**Middleburg Inn & Guest Suites**, 105A W. Washington Street, Middleburg, ☎ 540-687-3115, has one- , two- , and three-bedroom suites, some with full kitchens. $$$

**Milltown Farms Inn**, 14163 Milltown Road, Waterford, ☎ 540-882-4470, features five rooms, some with shared baths, with antiques, feather beds, fireplaces, views of the Blue Ridge, and a gourmet breakfast. $$$

**The Red Fox Inn**, 2 E. Washington Street, Middleburg, ☎ 540-687-6301. This fine old establishment full of charm and antique furnishings has operated as an inn since 1728. There are 23 guest rooms, some with private patios and balconies, some with fireplaces. Free continental breakfast. $$$

## *Shopping*

Shopping in Loudoun County can mean browsing through antique shops and country stores, or heading for a large department store or outlet mall.

**Dulles Town Center**, 21100 Dulles Town Circle, Dulles, is a new mall located at the intersection of Routes 7 and 28. 125 shops, a food court and a

theater complex are anchored by Hecht's, Lord & Taylor, JC Penney and Sears.

**Leesburg Corner Premium Outlets**, 241 Fort Evans Road NE, Leesburg, ☎ 703-737-3071, is a shopping village at the intersection of Route 7 and Route 15 Bypass.

**Golden Bee Collectibles**, 14 S. King Street, Leesburg, ☎ 703-443-1061, is an authorized Herend & Presentense retailer. Fine selection of crystal, china, limoges, linens, wool items, and jewelry. The Golden Bee Gallery next store features fine art.

**Irish Crystal**, 102 W. Washington Street, Middleburg, ☎ 540-687-3422, carries Waterford crystal, heirloom ornaments and china.

# *Recreation*

## *Parks & Natural Areas*

**Algonkian Regional Park**, 47001 Fairway Drive, Sterling, ☎ 703-450-4655, is an 800-acre riverfront park with an 18-hole golf course, cottages, outdoor pool, boat launch and nature trails.

**Red Rock Wilderness Overlook Regional Park**, 43098 Edwards Ferry Road, Leesburg, ☎ 703-779-9372, has nature trails with views of the Potomac River.

**Washington & Old Dominion Railroad Regional Park**, ☎ 703-729-0596, is a 45-mile paved trail for walkers, joggers and bikers, with an adjacent bridle path.

**Brambleton Regional Park**, 42180 Ryan Road, Ashburn, ☎ 703-327-3403.

## *Water Sports*

**Butt's Tubes Inc**, Butt's Lane, Purcellville, ☎ 800-836-9911, offers canoe, kayak and tube river trips.

## *Fitness Centers*

**Ida Lee Park Recreation Center**, 50 Ida Lee Drive, Leesburg, ☎ 703-777-1368, is an indoor facility with a 25-meter pool, gym and weight room, located within a 138-acre park.

## *Farms*

**Jebraa Farm**, 39246 Lime Kiln road, Leesburg, ☎ 703-777-8561, is a working cattle farm that offers tours by appointment.

**Patowmack Farm**, 42461 Lovettsville Road, Lovettsville, ☎ 540-822-9017, is an organic farm that offers tours, luncheons and dinners.

**Water Ways Nursery**, 13015 Milltown Road, Lovettsville, ☎ 540-822-4385, has demonstration gardens of aquatic plants and native wildflowers surrounding a circa-1800 farmhouse.

**Field of Flowers**, 37879 Allder School Road, Purcellville, ☎ 540-338-7231, is a farm where you can cut your own flowers and shop for crafts in The Barn Shop. There is a flower festival in mid-July.

### *Golf*

**Algonkian Regional Park & Golf Course**, 47001 Fairway Drive, Sterling, ☎ 703-450-4655.

**Dulles Golf Center & Sports Park**, 21593 Jesse Court, Sterling, ☎ 703-404-8800.

**Goose Creek Golf Club**, 43001 Golf Club Road, Leesburg, ☎ 703-729-2500.

**Landsdowne**, 44050 Woodridge Parkway, Leesburg, ☎ 703-729-4071.

**Raspberry Falls Golf & Hunt Club**, 41601 Raspberry Drive, Leesburg, ☎ 703-779-2555.

**South Riding Golf Course**, 43237 Golf View Drive, South Riding, ☎ 703-327-3673.

**Stoneleigh Golf Club**, 35271, Prestwick Court, Round Hill, ☎ 703-589-1402.

**Westpark Golf Club**, 59 Clubhouse Road, Leesburg, ☎ 703-777-7023.

### *Other Activities*

**Dulles Golf Center & Sports Park**, 21593 Jesse Court, Sterling, ☎ 703-404-8800, has lighted, heated tees, instruction, beach volleyball and batting cages.

**Harmon's Hayrides & Carriages**, 43120 Hollyspring Lane, Centreville, ☎ 703-327-6731, offers Belgian Draft horse-drawn hayrides.

## *Transportation*

Loudon County is served by **Washington Dulles International Airport**, 14 miles east of Leesburg. **Greyhound** also provides service to Leesburg (☎ 800-231-2222), and there is a **commuter bus** running between Washington and Leesburg (☎ 703-771-5665). **Loudon County Transportation Association** provides travel service throughout the county (☎ 703-221-7534).

## *Information*

For more information, brochures and a visitor's guide, contact the **Loudoun Tourism Council**, 108-D South Street SE, Leesburg, VA 20175-3732. ☎ 703-771-2617 or 800-752-6118, or visit www.VisitLoudoun.org.

# Manassas & Prince William County

A visit to Prince William County wouldn't be complete without touring the Manassas National Battlefield, and that's exactly why many people come. But the area has developed into a diverse tourist spot, with a 17,000-acre natural area (Prince William National Park), 46 miles of waterfront, and one of the world's largest outlet malls, Potomac Mills. Add to the mix the delightful quaint shops and streets of Old Town Manassas and Occoquan, and top it all off with a tour down the "antique shopping corridor."

Prince William County and the City of Manassas are near Washington DC, and many other travel destinations in both Virginia and Maryland.

## *History*

The Prince William County of today is far different from the one that was formed way back in 1730 from Stafford and King George Counties. It offers the traveler an extraordinary pilgrimage into the past. Its old towns, historic sites and national battlefield provide a historical backdrop to a modern community rich in opportunity. The once-vast tract of land included areas that are now a part of Fairfax, Arlington, Alexandria, Loudoun, and Fauquier, but it was reduced to its present size and shape in 1759. Its first court house was built in 1731 on the banks of the Occoquan River at Woodbridge. Since then it has been moved from one site to another until, in 1893, it was finally relocated to the present county seat of Manassas.

Of the several small towns and villages that were chartered during colonial times, only three remain: Dumfries, Haymarket, and Occoquan. Quantico owes its existence to the creation of the Quantico Marine Corps Base; Manassas and Manassas Park withdrew from the county in 1975 and became independent cities.

From Prince William's earliest times the **Potomac Path**, or King's Highway, was a major artery linking North and South. Men like Washington, Rochambeau, and Lafayette traveled the road, stopping along the way at George Mason's Woodbridge Plantation, Rippon Lodge, the home of Colonel Richard Blackburn, and the old Stagecoach Inn at the port of Dum-

fries. One of Virginia's most famous citizens' roots lie deep in Prince William's soil. Henry Lee III, "Light Horse Harry," the father of Confederate General Robert E. Lee, lived on the Leesylvania Plantation just to the north of the port city of Dumfries.

As the difficult situation between England and her colonies in the New World moved inexorably to a head, the citizens of Prince William County assembled at Dumfries on June 6th, 1774 and adopted the **Prince William County Resolves**. Later that year, one of the first companies of Minutemen in Virginia was organized. A native son of the county, William Grayson, became Virginia's first United States Senator.

The **Civil War** brought havoc and destruction on a grand scale to Prince William County. Two great battles, First and Second Bull Run, were fought at Manassas, and the small community, an important railroad junction and supply center, changed hands repeatedly throughout the war years. Today, those momentous days and the battles that were fought at Manassas are memorialized at the Manassas National Battlefield Park just northwest of the city.

Prince William County's rich history has been extensively documented and most of the important places and events are indicated on interpretive roadside markers throughout the county.



## *Historic Dumfries*

Dumfries, a bustling Colonial tobacco port chartered in 1749, is the oldest continuously-chartered town in Virginia. It was named for the small Scottish town of Dumfries by John Graham, upon whose land the town was founded. During those early years the town had a number of hotels and stores, all run by Scottish merchants. There was also a dance hall, a theater, a race track and jockey club, a bank, a newspaper, and a courthouse. Cock fighting was a popular sport of the times, hence the nearby Cockpit Point. There was also an academy, a brick factory and several tobacco warehouses, along with the requisite tobacco inspector. Unfortunately, heavy silting and poor farming ruined the town and its industry.

The **Reverend Mason Locke Weems**, George Washington's first biographer, had a bookstore and warehouse in Dumfries. Weems is responsible for the story of Washington cutting down the cherry tree. He also wrote biographies of founding fathers Marrion, Penn, and Franklin. In 1802, the Weems property was sold to Benjamin Botts, who turned it into a law office. Botts became well known as the youngest defense attorney at the treason trial of Aaron Burr. He and his wife were killed in the Richmond Theater fire in 1811. The property changed hands several times after Botts died. Eventually it came into the possession of the Merchant family, and there it remained until the death of Miss Merchant at the age of 82 in 1968. For seven years following Miss Merchant's death the property lay abandoned to vagrants and vandals – until it was purchased by the city of Dumfries in 1974. The building, now one of the oldest struc-

tures in the town, has been completely restored. Today, the property that once housed Parson Weems' bookshop and the Botts' law office is a museum dedicated to the memory of the two famous men.

## *Manassas*

Prior to the Civil War, Manassas was a rural community of small farms and holdings. By the late 1850s, however, things had changed. The coming of the Orange and Alexandria and Manassas Gap Railroads had turned the area into the bustling hamlet of **Manassas Junction**. And it was the railroads that made the junction so important as a supply depot to both Confederate and Union armies. During the four years of strife the little community saw two major battles fought upon its soil, and dozens of smaller skirmishes, along with an assortment of military camps and field hospitals.

When the war ended in 1865, things in the tiny community at first began to return to normal. Then, with the rebuilding of the railroad and the return of interstate commerce, Manassas began to grow. By 1873 it had been chartered as a town. As money continued to pour into the coffers of local merchants and landowners, the architectural growth of the city began to reflect the Victorian era in which it was born. The old buildings and structures in the downtown historic district are fine examples of the times.

Today, the tidy little city of 25,000 is a fast-growing community only 30 minutes from downtown Washington DC, and 45 minutes from the heart of Virginia's beautiful Shenandoah Valley. The historic downtown area, now listed on the State and National Historic Registers of Historic Places, has been preserved and developed into one of Prince William County's most popular tourist sites. The city provides a number of self-guided walking and driving tours of the historic homes and Civil War sites and the many quaint and interesting shops. Opportunities for antique collecting, entertainment and dining abound. The Old Town has several historic museums and buildings, and provides a variety of festivals, fairs, and jubilees.

## *Occoquan*

Occoquan is a Dogue Indian word that roughly translates to "at the end of the water." It is believed, because of the abundance of fish and ease of travel by canoe, that the Dogue once inhabited the Occoquan River area. It was for the same reasons that the pioneers found it to be a natural site for a community and a center for water-borne commerce.

As early as 1736, colonists had established a tobacco warehouse. By 1750, the little community had seen the beginnings of a thriving industrial complex. By the turn of the century, Occoquan had developed forges, water-driven grist mills, saw mills, tolling mills, and a bake house. The Merchant's Mill became the first automated grist mill in the nation. Grain

was transported to the mill by water, then off-loaded from the ships and barges, transported into the plant for processing, and returned to the ships. It was all done with machinery operated by one man. From Occoquan it was transported to markets around the world. The mill operated for 175 years until it was destroyed by fire. All that remains of the original structure is the miller's office, now a museum operated by Historic Occoquan.

A mail stage route was established through the community in 1805. The cotton industry arrived in Occoquan when one of the first cotton mills in Virginia opened there in 1828. By the late 1850s, the timber, fish, and ship building industries, along with the first commercial ice storage house, had joined King Cotton in Occoquan. They turned the little riverside community into a thriving industrial complex.

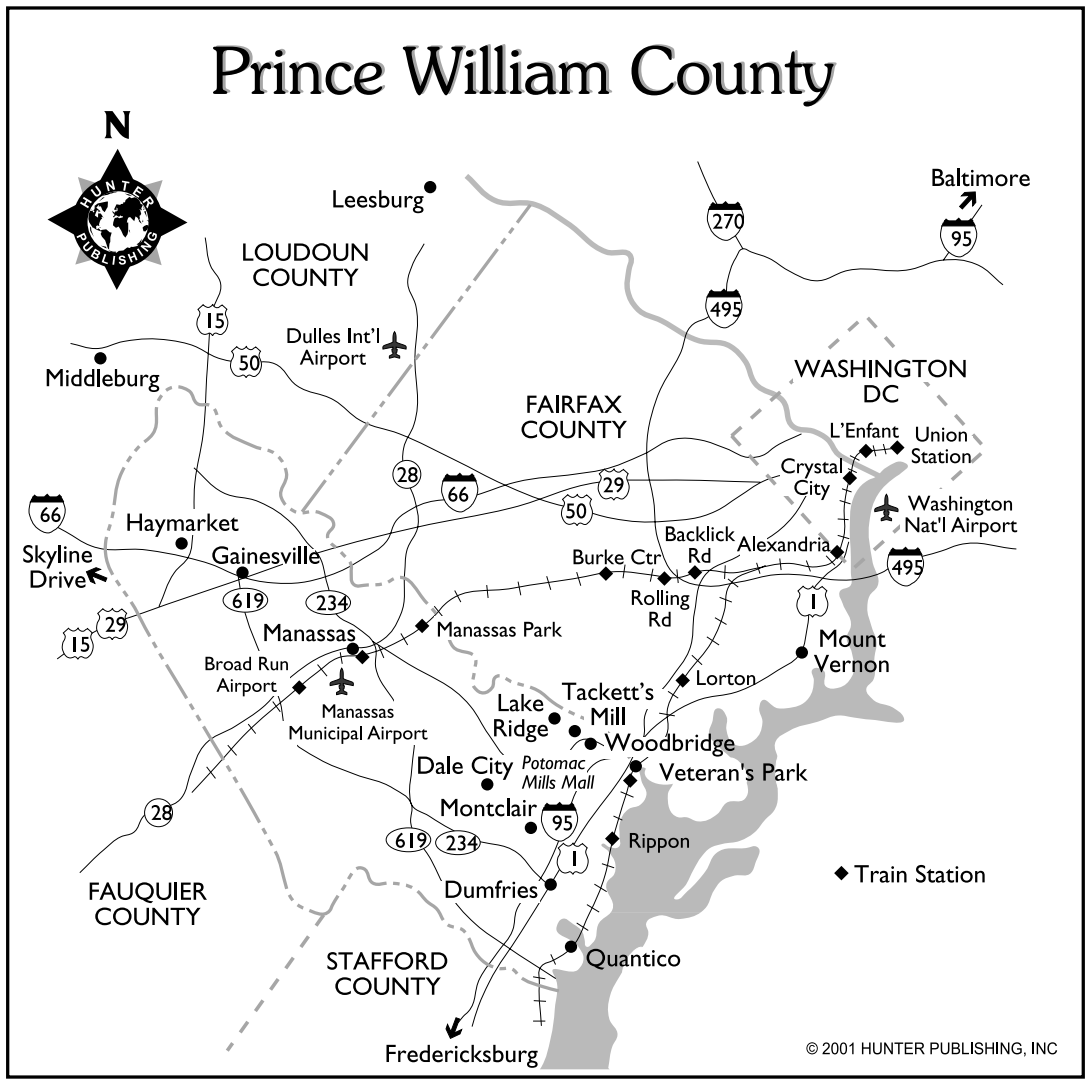
The Civil War came and went, leaving Occoquan little changed and continuing to grow. By the turn of the century it had become a town with all the popular amenities, including a theater and an opera hall. Occoquan had become a cultural as well as a commercial center for the area. It was an idyllic time in the little community's history.

The good times came abruptly to an end in 1916, when much of the town was destroyed by fire. In 1928, Route 1 opened for interstate travel and Occoquan no longer stood astride the main artery between North and South. Things deteriorated even further when the railroad and over-the-road transport systems replaced the water-borne traffic. Even so, the good folk of the city made adjustments and it continued to thrive. But Occoquan's misfortunes were not yet over. Supermarkets outside of town began to take business from the small stores in town and the center began to die. Finally, in 1972, Hurricane Agnes paid a visit, destroying buildings, streets, sidewalks, and even the old iron truss bridge that crossed the river. To most it would have meant an end, but not to the people of Occoquan. They began to rebuild, repair, and restore until today the mills, the lumber yards, and the old ice houses are all gone. In their place is a historic little riverside town, a sleepy backwater community that offers visitors a unique experience. There is fine dining in exquisite little restaurants and cafés, a hundred-and-one unusual shops where you can browse for antiques, fine arts, needlework, crafts, collectibles, and fashions.

Almost as old as Virginia itself, Occoquan has evolved through the years into a unique blend of the old and the new, offering a quality of life rarely found today.

## *Sights & Attractions*

**Manassas National Battlefield Park**. In the early hours of July 21, 1861, the Civil War began in earnest as Union General Irvin McDowell hurled his rookie army against that of Confederate General Pierre




Gustave Toutant Beauregard's much smaller army. At first, the event was treated as something of a holiday. Dignitaries and celebrities came from Washington with their ladies to enjoy a picnic and watch the action as General McDowell put an end to the war before it had begun. At least, that was the way it was supposed to have gone. In reality, the fighting raged throughout the day. It was attack and counterattack until at last General Beauregard's army emerged victorious, sending a severely defeated Union army back toward Washington through the rain and in deep despair. Left behind were almost 4,700 casualties. The idea that the war would be a glorious affair, over in a matter of weeks, had been dispelled for good.

War came again to Manassas during the three days of August 28-30, 1862. This time General Robert E. Lee was at the head of the victorious Confederate army. The two battles cost both sides dearly. The Confederacy had 11,456 men wounded, missing, and killed; the Union losses were even higher at 17,170.

Today, the great field of war is a lush, green park dedicated to the men of both sides who gave their lives for one cause or the other. The park is

dominated by the great equestrian statue of Confederate General Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson on Henry Hill.

The park is open daily. The visitor center is accessible to the handicapped but the actual battlegrounds are not. The visitor center also offers an interpretive slide show, an electric battle map, and a bookstore where a variety of Civil War books, maps, and tapes are on sale. There are several self-guided walking tours. The shortest is only about 30 minutes, while the longest takes more than 2½ hours. There is also a self-guided driving tour that includes 12 stops, two of which are optional walking tours, and covers 12 miles. Guided tours take place during the summer months, while in the winter they are by reservation only.

For more information, contact the Manassas National Battlefield Park, 6511 Sudeley Road, Manassas, VA 22110, ☎ 703-361-1339. The park is located at 12521 Lee Highway, off I-66 at Exit 47B.

**Old Town Manassas**. Old Town Manassas demonstrates how the struggle for the control of the major railroad junction led to the first major land battle of the Civil War. There are a number excellent shops and restaurants; brochures are available at Historic Manassas or the Manassas Museum for a self-guided walking tour.

**The Manassas Railroad Depot**, built in 1911, has railroad exhibits and a visitor center.

Annual special events include the Manassas Railway Festival in June, and the Fall Jubilee on the first Saturday in October.

For more information, contact Historic Manassas Visitor Center, off I-66 at Exit 47, ☎ 703-361-6599.

The **Manassas Museum**, 9101 Prince William Street, offers an exciting journey through the history of the city and the Northern Virginia Piedmont region through a variety of interpretive video programs and exhibits that include Civil War memorabilia, antique furniture, maps, and photographs. The museum is open Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. ☎ 703-368-1873.

**Manassas Volunteer Fire Company Museum**, 9322 Centreville Road in Old Town Manassas, ☎ 703-368-6211, displays antique fire apparatus and memorabilia used during the past 100 years. Open when the Volunteer Fire Department is open.

**The Manassas Industrial School/Jennie Dean Memorial**, 9601 Prince Williams Street, Manassas, is a school founded in 1894, where young African-American men and women learned marketable trades. It was founded by Jennie Dean, who was born a slave in 1852. The outdoor memorial and exhibit are open daily, year-round. ☎ 703-368-1873.

**Ben Lomond Manor House and Old Rose Garden**, 10311 Sudley Manor Drive, Manassas, was believed to be occupied by both Confederate

and Union soldiers as a hospital. The walls bear the signature of Union soldiers. On the grounds are one of the largest collections of antique roses. Grounds open daily. ☎ 703-792-7060.

**Confederate Cemetery**, Center Street in Manassas, is the burial sites of more than 250 Confederate soldiers. The public library has a list of those buried there. ☎ 703-361-6599.

**Historic Occoquan**. Occoquan is an original 18th-century mill town nestled on the banks of the picturesque Occoquan River. The sleepy little town is neither a restoration nor a museum; rather it's a thriving artists' community filled with more than 100 shops, an enchanting village that has successfully linked more than 200 years of history with all the modern amenities, losing none of its charm in the process. Occoquan is on the National Register of Historic Places and hosts annual craft shows and other events.

There's plenty to see and do. Popular pastimes include taking a walking tour, dining out at one or more of the fine restaurants, and shopping for everything from antiques to hand-made quilts, and from fine arts to fashions. Most of the shops are open seven days a week from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m.

A self-guided tour takes about 45 minutes and guided tours are available by reservation. For more information, contact the Prince William County Visitor Information Center at 200 Mill Street, ☎ 703-491-4045, or the Occoquan Merchants Association, PO Box 606, Occoquan, VA 22125.

**Harbor River Cruises** offers a 40-minute excursion cruise departing from 201 Mill Street, Dock A, in Occoquan. ☎ 703-385-9433.

**Quantico National Cemetery** is 700 wooded acres where veterans of America's armed conflicts are buried. Open daily year-round. Located at 18424 Joplin Road, Triangle. ☎ 703-221-2183.

**The Marine Corps Air-Ground Museum**. This museum is explored through a series of interpretive exhibits that span the history of the Corps from the end of the Spanish-American War to the end of the Korean War. Exhibits encompass a whole range of heavy equipment that includes field artillery, machine guns, 11 wheeled and tracked vehicles, eight armored fighting vehicles, and 19 aircraft. A number of cased exhibits contain small exhibits highlighting particular themes and weapons, and mannequins in historical settings wear the historical uniforms and equipment of the day. Exhibits are arranged in chronological order for a self-guided tour and are housed in vintage aircraft hangers.

The museum is located on the Quantico Marine Corps Base. It is handicapped-accessible and open April through November, Tuesday through Sunday. Groups should plan to arrive at the museum no later than 3 p.m. Take I-95, Exit 150A, Triangle/Quantico. Follow the signs and enter the main gate at Routes 1 and 619 near the Iwo Jima statue. Stop at the gate

where the sentry will provide you with a visitor's pass. Follow the signs to the museum, which is at the end of Turner Field.

☎ 703-784-2606, or contact the Officer-in-Charge, Marine Corps Air-Ground Museum, Bldg. 2014, MCB, Quantico, VA 22134-5001.

## *Annual Events*

There are dozens of unique and fun events held in Prince William County throughout the year. For a full calendar, call The Prince William County/ Manassas Conference and Visitors Bureau, ☎ 800-432-1792.

**The Cherry Jubilee** celebrates Washington's birthday in Dumfries in February. ☎ 703-221-3346.

**The Manassas Art Guild's Juried Show** is held in April at Bull Run Regional Library. ☎ 703-335-2527.

**The Scottish Heritage Parade** is held in May in Dumfries. ☎ 703-221-3346.

**Haymarket's Spring Festival** is held in May. ☎ 703-754-4816.

**The Old Rose Celebration at Ben Lomond Manor House** is in May in Manassas. Rose and plant auction and sale. ☎ 703-368-8784.

**The Manassas Railway Festival** is held in Old Town Manassas in June. ☎ 703-361-6599.

The **Historic Occoquan Spring Arts & Crafts Show** is in June. ☎ 703-491-2168.

**The African-American Arts Festival** is held in August on the lawn of the historic Jennie Dean Elementary School, Manassas. ☎ 703-369-2475.

**Prince William's County Fair**, Virginia's largest county fair is held each August, south of Manassas on Route 234. It offers nine days of fun. ☎ 703-368-0173.

**A Civil War Weekend** commemorating the second Battle of Manassas is held in August at the Manassas Museum. ☎ 703-361-1399.

**The Occoquan Wine Festival and Craft Show** is in September. ☎ 703-491-1736.

**Fiesta de Manassas** celebrate the Hispanic community in mid-September. ☎ 703-257-6632.

**Haymarket Days** are held in mid-September with arts & crafts, food and a parade. ☎ 703-754-4816.

**Historic Occoquan Fall Arts & Craft Show** takes place in late September. ☎ 703-491-2168.

**The Fall Jubilee** and **Early American Craft Fair** is held in October in Old Town Manassas. ☎ 703-361-6599.

**The Quantico Arts & Craft Show** is held on Main Street in early October. ☎ 703-221-7575.

**The Cabin Branch Quilters Show and Sale**, October, Lake Ridge Middle School. ☎ 703-878-1793.

**The Virginia Christmas Show** is held in October at the Prince William County Fairgrounds. ☎ 703-368-9761.

**Haunted Ghost Tours of Historic Occoquan** are offered on weekends in October. ☎ 703-491-5468.

**The Christmasfest Craft Show**, at the Dale City Recreation Center, is in December. ☎ 703-670-7111, ext. 229.

**Dumfries Town Christmas Parade**, December, ☎ 703-221-3400, ext. 133.

**An Annual Christmas Parade** takes place in December in Old Town Manassas, ☎ 703-361-6599.

## *Entertainment*

**Hylton Memorial Chapel and Conference Center** hosts Christian artists, speakers and events with seating for 4,000. Located at 14640 Potomac Mills Road, Woodbridge. ☎ 703-590-0076.

**The Lazy Susan Dinner Theater** offers outstanding food, an informal atmosphere and memorable theatrical performances, making it one of the most popular evening spots in Northern Virginia. The evening begins with cocktails at 6 o'clock, followed by a buffet featuring salads, relishes, home baked breads, and Pennsylvania Dutch hot entrées, all prepared from scratch, including roast beef, chicken, fish, and home-made desserts for an endless bounty of delicious treats. Then, sit back and relax as you watch a full-scale Broadway production performed by a company of experts. For more information and prices, ☎ 703-550-7384.

**The Mary Louise Jackson Amphitheater** on the Northern Virginia Community College/Manassas campus offers plays, lectures, jazz, gospel and international festivals. There are 750 seats, in addition to lawn seating. Located at 6901 Sudley Road, Manassas. ☎ 703-257-6600.

**The New Dominion Shakespeare Festival** is held at the Cramer Center in historic downtown Manassas on weekends in Spring and Fall. Located at 9008 Center Street, ☎ 703-365-0240.

**The Nissan Pavilion** at Stone Ridge is an outdoor pavilion that offers concerts by well-known and emerging artists of every musical variety. There is reserved seating for 10,000, and lawn seating for another 15,000.

The season runs from spring through fall. Located at 7800 Cellar Door Drive, Bristow. ☎ 800-551-SEAT.

**Old Dominion Speedway** offers NASCAR, Winston Cup, drag racing and car shows. For more information and racing schedules, contact the office at 10611 Dumfries Road, Manassas, VA 22111. ☎ 703-361-RACE.

**The Potomac Cannons** professional baseball team is the Carolina League affiliate of the St. Louis Cardinals. Barry Bonds, Bobby Bonilla, and Stump Merrill head the list of former Cannons players and managers in the major leagues. The Cannons offer great baseball in a traditional and exciting atmosphere April through September at the Richard Pfitzner Stadium in Woodbridge. For more information, game schedule, and current prices, ☎ 703-590-2311.

**The Prince William Symphony Orchestra** offers a five-concert series by leading musicians at various venues throughout the state. ☎ 703-580-8562.



# *Recreation*

## *Parks & Natural Areas*

**Leesylvania State Park** is on 500 acres on the banks of the Potomac River. It's the site of the birthplace of "Light Horse" Harry Lee, the father of Robert E. Lee. Features include a visitor center, store, boat ramp, sandy beach, fishing, hiking, and the ruins of the Lee home and Civil War battlements. Wildlife, including nesting bald eagles, can be seen. Located at 16236 Neabsco Road, Woodbridge. ☎ 703-670-0372.

**Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge** is 643-acre site on the banks of the Occoquan and Potomac rivers. See tidal shorelines, marshes, meadows, woodlands and wildlife including nesting ospreys and bald eagles. Tours by appointment only. Located on Dawson Beach Road. ☎ 703-491-6255.

**Prince William National Forest Park**. The land now occupied by the Prince William Forest Park has, from prehistoric times, been used to provide food and shelter. American Indians were probably the first to settle the land along Quantico Creek. Scottish immigrants established the port city of Dumfries at the estuary of the creek in 1756, and land to the west of the settlement was quickly cleared and planted with cotton and tobacco. The years that followed brought prosperity to the area, but poor land management caused severe soil erosion and extensive silting turned the once-thriving harbor into desolate marshlands. The mismanagement continued well into the 20th century. The land was depleted of its nutrients to the point where local farmers were barely able to make a living. Then, in 1933, the Resettlement Administration acquired the land and established the Chopawamsic Recreation Demonstration Area. The Ci-

vilian Conservation Corps went to work reclaiming the old and devastated farmland, overgrown and abandoned. New growths of hardwoods, pines, blackberries and blueberries were established. Wildlife returned to the one-time farmlands – white-tail deer, wild turkey, beaver, raccoon, and a variety of smaller animals. Gradually, the land recovered and blossomed.

Today, Prince William Forest Park has become one of Virginia's finest centers for outdoor recreation. It encompasses 17,000 acres of national forest, with streams, ponds, waterfalls, a nature center and more than 35 miles of nature trails. Popular activities in the park include hiking and bicycling on the park roads, fishing for bass, bluegill, perch and catfish in the lakes and streams; picnicking and orienteering. Camping is available either at the Oak Ridge Campground, where there are 113 sites, or at the Travel Trailer Village, which is operated by a park concessionaire. Group camping facilities are also available in the park, offering sites for groups of 50 or more, and five cabin camps with facilities ranging from restrooms to kitchens, and campfire grills to sleeping cabins.

Prince William Forest Park is administered by the National Park Service. For more information, write to the park superintendent at PO Box 209, Triangle, VA 22172, or ☎ 703-221-7181. For camping information about the Travel Trailer Village, ☎ 703-221-2474.

The park is located on State Route 619, to the west of Dumfries off I-95. Take the Triangle exit and follow the signs a short distance west to the park entrance.

**Prince William County Park Authority** has 28 parks scattered throughout the county. They offer nature centers, playgrounds, water slides, miniature golf, row boats, pools and electric boats. Popular activities are fishing, hiking, camping and all sorts of competitive sports, such as basketball, softball, soccer, football, baseball, and tennis. Numerous special events are held throughout the year, including an annual Civil War reenactment.

For more information and a full list of parks and facilities, contact the Prince William County Park Authority, 14420 Bristow Road, Manassas, VA 22111, ☎ 703-792-7060.

## *Fitness Centers*

The **Chinn Aquatics and Fitness Center** offers two pools, youth rooms, whirlpools, a sauna, a weight and exercise room, and racquetball courts. Daily admissions and plans available. Located at 13025 Chinn Park Drive, Prince William. ☎ 703-791-2338.

**Dale City Recreation Center** features an indoor pool, spa, cardio-fitness and weight rooms, racquetball and a batting cage. Daily admissions and plans available. Located at 14300 Minnieville Road, Dale City. % 703-670-7113.

The **Manassas Racquet Club & Nautilus Fitness Center** has indoor and outdoor tennis courts, racquetball courts, a sauna, weight training, aerobics programs, and Nautilus equipment. 8709 Quarry Road, Manassas, ☎ 703-361-1161.

## *Family Fun*

**The Bug Box** is a live insect zoo featuring all kinds of bugs. Available for birthday parties, and there is a gift shop. Located at the Festival at Old Bridge Shopping Center, ☎ 703-490-0256.

**Laser Quest Potomac Mills** offers live-action Laser Tag for the entire family. Immerse yourself in this adventure game which features fog, music and entertainment. Located at 14517 Potomac Mills Road. ☎ 703-490-4180 or visit www.laserquest.com.

**Old Mine Ranch** is a hands-on pony ranch and working farm. There are pony and hay rides, a petting farm and a guided river hike. Open April through October, ending the season with a pumpkin patch and haunted hayrides. ☎ 703-441-1382.

**Magic Putting Place** is a unique miniature golf facility with two courses, 26 holes, featuring waterfalls, fountains and a magical atmosphere. Open daily and nightly April through October. ☎ 703-369-9299.

**Signal Bay Waterpark** is a 2,000 square foot aquatic play park in Signal Hill Park. Located at 9300 Signal View Drive, Manassas Park. ☎ 703-335-8874.

**SkateNation** features a National Hockey League arena and an Olympic-sized arena. In a state-of-the-art facility at 5180 Dale Boulevard, Dale City. Open for year-round, indoor public skating, lessons and leagues. ☎ 703-730-8423.

**SplashDown Waterpark** is more than 11 acres of water fun, with tube and cannonball slides, volleyball and more. Located at 7500 Ben Lomond Drive, Manassas. ☎ 703-361-4451.

**WaterWorks Waterpark** features water sprays and slides, as well as other sports fields and courts. Located at 5301 Dale Boulevard, Dale City. ☎ 703-361-4451, ext. 222.

## *Golf*

Prince William County has eight public courses for every skill level. Four of them were listed by *Washington Golf Monthly* in the "top 100 places to play in the Mid-Atlantic."

**Bristow Manor Golf Club** is a par 72 course of more than 7,000 yards surrounding Bristow Manor, a historic Southern mansion. There is a pro shop, practice facility, professional teaching staff and a restaurant. Located at 11507 Valley View Drive, Bristow. ☎ 703-368-3558.

**Broad Run Golf Academy** offers golf for the entire family, with an 80-station practice range and 24 covered and heated stations. There is a nine-hole, par 35 course, one of the best in Virginia. Located on Golf Academy Drive, off Route 28. ☎ 703-365-2443.

**Bull Run Country Club** offers pro-link GPS-based electronic yardage and course information available from each golf cart. Designed by Rick Jacobson, with bent grass greens, tees and fairways. Located at Route 15, four miles from I-66, Exit 40. ☎ 703-753-7777.

**Forest Greens Golf Club** is on gently rolling terrain and woodlands, and is home to the Mark Moseley P.L.A.Y. Foundation Golf Tournament. There is a restaurant, PGA staff, pro shop, practice putting green and driving range. Located adjacent to Quantico National Cemetery and Prince William Forest Park in Triangle. ☎ 703-221-0123.

**Lake Ridge Park Golf Course** is a nine-hole executive course on the banks of the upper Occoquan River. Designed to improve a short game, it has wide greens and challenging terrain. There is a driving range, clubhouse, lessons, snack bar and miniature golf. Located at 12350 Cotton Mill Drive, Woodbridge. ☎ 703-494-5564.

The **Manassas Hills Golf Club** is a nine-hole course with a discount golf shop, and a driving range. The short holes make it ideal for beginners or those who want just a quick game. The course is open from dawn until dusk. 7800 Willow Pond Court, Manassas, ☎ 703-368-2028.

**Manassas Park Public Golf Course** is a championship course surrounded by rolling hills and hardwood forests on the site where Confederate Gen. Richard S. Ewell built his winter encampment. There is a clubhouse, restaurant with patio dining, pro shop, practice holes and driving range. Located at 9701 Manassas Drive, Manassas Park. ☎ 703-335-0777.

**The Ospreys at Belmont Bay** is a par 66 course offering views of the Occoquan and Potomac Rivers and protected wetlands. Located at 13401 Potomac Path Drive in Woodbridge. ☎ 703-497-1384.

The **Prince William Golf Course** is a challenging par 70, 18-hole course with a pro shop, a driving range, motorized carts, and Pro-Am Tournaments. The facility is open from dawn until dusk and is at 14631 Vint Hill Road, Nokesville, ☎ 703-754-7111.

**Sunnybrook Golf** is one of the premier driving ranges in Northern Virginia, featuring 60 lighted tees, 16 elevated tees, and 16 covered and heated tees. There is PGA staff on hand, a pro shop and lunch specials. Located at 8535 Sudley Road, Manassas, ☎ 703-369-0070.

**Virginia Oaks Golf Course** was built around Lake Manassas, offering outstanding golf and natural beauty. There is a pro shop, grass driving range, chop and putting greens. Located at 7950 Virginia Oaks Drive, Gainesville. ☎ 703-551-2103.

### *Other Activities*

**Merrimac Farm Hunting Preserve** is a 200-acre private tract of land rich with pheasant, quail and partridge. Located at 14710 Deepwood Lane, Nokesville. Call for advance arrangements, ☎ 703-594-2276.

## *Shopping*

**Potomac Mills**, one of the largest outlet malls in the US, has become a destination in itself. There are more than 220 well-known manufacturers' outlets. Reductions of 20-60% off the recommended retail prices on goods ranging from home furnishings to children's fashions, toys to women's clothing, and electronics to men's fashions and accessories are not unusual.

Brand names represented include Spiegel, Ann Taylor, Royal Doulton, Rubbermaid, Levi's, Bally, Disney and Saks, just to name a few. There is also a 20-screen cinema and food court with more than 20 vendors.

The mall is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., and from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sundays. For more information, contact Potomac Mills Mall, 2700 Potomac Mills Circle, Suite 307, Prince William, VA 22192. ☎ 800-VA-MILLS or visit www.potomac-mills.com.

The mall is located off I-95, 30 minutes from downtown Washington DC, 60 minutes from Baltimore, MD, and 90 minutes from Richmond, VA. From I-95, take Exit 158 (southbound), or Exit 156 (northbound).

**Manassas Mall** features specialty shopping with offerings like The Bombay Company, Chesapeake Knife and Tool, Bath and Body Works, and more. There is a seven-screen movie theater and a food court. Located at 8300 Sudley Road, Manassas, ☎ 703-368-0181.

## *Antiquing*

Prince William County is a Mecca for the antique collector. The **Featherstone Antique Mall** on Route 1 in Woodbridge is one of the largest indoor facilities of its kind, ☎ 703-491-9099. The **Antique Station** in Dumfries has more than 75 dealers under one roof, ☎ 703-221-7534.

### *Manassas*

The **Antique Corridor** lines Route 28 from the county border and into Manassas. From I-66, take Exit 53 toward Manassas. Just to name a few: Buckhall Antiques, Stone House Treasures, Wicker Place Antiques, Blue Sky Antique Center, Auntie T's and Iron Horse Antiques.

**Law's Antique and Auction Center** is an antique mall that encompasses 25 large shops selling a wide variety of antique goods and collect-

ibles. There are weekly auctions and monthly flea markets. The center is open Thursday through Monday. Located on both sides of Route 28, close to Old Town Manassas. ☎ 703-368-3935.

### *Occoquan*

There are numerous antique shops in the village of Occoquan. You can get copies of the full shop list at the Tourist Information Center at 200 Mill Street. Antique shops in Occoquan include: Anita Maria, the Antique Market of Milltown Square, Country Hollow, Fox Run Antiques, Iron Gate Antiques, and Waterfront Antiques & Accents.

## *Dining*

### *Manassas*

**The Admirals Inn**, 8630 Mathis Avenue next to the Best Western Inn, ☎ 703-368-3600, is a family restaurant with seating capacity for 270. The restaurant is open for lunch and dinner.

**Carmello's & Little Portugal**, Old Town Manassas at 9108 Center Street, ☎ 703-368-5522, offers fine dining and specializes in Northern Italian and Portuguese gourmet food. Both food and service are superb; prices are moderate. It's open for lunch Monday-Friday, and for dinner seven days a week. Prices are moderate, and reservations are accepted. Closed major holidays.

**Casa Chimayo**, 8209 Sudley Road, ☎ 703-369-2523, is a family-style Mexican restaurant with good food and moderate prices.

**The Chesapeake Bay Seafood & Buffet**, 10784 Sudley Manor Drive, ☎ 703-827-0320, is a large seafood restaurant where the specialty of the house is their all-you-can-eat menu. Prices are moderate, and the restaurant is open for lunch and dinner.

**The China Jade Restaurant**, 8423 Sudeley Road, ☎ 703-361-5754, is a fine Chinese restaurant specializing in Hunan and Szechuan seafood. The prices are moderate, the food is great and the service is first class. Open for lunch and dinner.

**Giacomo's**, 9007 Centerville Road, ☎ 703-369-5050, has good Italian food and excellent service for moderate prices. Open for lunch and dinner.

**Hunan of Manassas Restaurant**, 11010 Sudley Manor Drive, ☎ 703-361-7172, offers authentic Hunan and Szechuan cuisine, all prepared fresh and served in an elegant dining room.

**Mexico Lindo Restaurant**, 9920 Cockrell Road, ☎ 703-361-4141, offers authentic Mexican cuisine daily for lunch and dinner, with live music and dancing on the weekends.

**Panino Ristorante**, 9116 Mathis Avenue, ☎ 703-335-2560, is one of the top upscale restaurants in the area, serving regional Italian dishes of veal, poultry, seafood and pasta.

**Wu's Garden**, 9020 Mathis Avenue, in front of the Manassas Shopping Center, ☎ 703-361-7118, is an upscale Chinese restaurant specializing in Peking, Szechuan, and Polynesian foods. Wu's Garden is open for lunch and dinner, and prices are moderate.

**The Yorkshire Restaurant**, 7537 Centerville Road, ☎ 703-368-4905, is a family-style restaurant specializing in seafood, steaks, and subs. Breakfast is served all day.

## *Woodbridge*

**Astoria Pizza Restaurant**, 13436 Jefferson Davis Highway, ☎ 703-491-5044, is open for lunch and dinner, serving pizza, salads, sandwiches, and Greek specialties.

**Black-Eyed Pea**, 14239 Potomac Mills Road, ☎ 703-494-8131, serves down-home comfort foods like pot roast and meatloaf. Open for lunch and dinner.

**Claudio's**, 14330 Jefferson Davis Highway, ☎ 703-492-9767, offers a unique menu of Italian, Pakistani and Indian cuisine in an elegant atmosphere. Open for lunch and dinner.

**Damon's Clubhouse**, 14595 Potomac Mills Road, ☎ 703-492-6337, is a casual restaurant with a sports theme, serving specialties like Alaskan salmon, Chesapeake crab cakes and barbecued ribs. Open for lunch and dinner.

**Gecko's**, 13188 Marina Way, ☎ 703-494-5000, specializes in American food and seafood. Open for lunch and dinner. Handicapped-accessible.

**Pilot House Restaurant & Marina**, 16216 Neabsco Road, ☎ 703-221-1010, has a marina view and offers fine seafood and steaks. Open for dinner only.

## *Occoquan*

**Café Rochambeau**, 310 Commerce Street, ☎ 703-494-1165, serves country French cuisine in a colonial schoolhouse. Open for lunch and dinner.

**The Garden Kitchen**, 404 Mill Street, ☎ 703-494-2848, offers gourmet sandwiches, quiche and baked specialties for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

**The Occoquan Inn**, 301 Mill Street, ☎ 703-491-1888, specializes in traditional Virginia country cuisine. The food is good, and the service excellent. The restaurant is open for lunch and dinner.

**Sea**, **Sea & Company**, 201 Mill Street, ☎ 703-494-1365, is a nautical-themed restaurant overlooking the Occoquan River. Open for lunch and dinner.

## *Accommodations*

Most establishments offer both handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms, but be sure to ask when making reservations.

### *I-95 Area*

**Quality Inn** is at 1109 Horner Road, Woodbridge, ☎ 800-221-2222. The hotel has 94 rooms including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. There's also a meeting room, two Jacuzzi suites, a guest laundry, a games room and an outdoor pool. Complimentary continental breakfast. $$

**The Days Inn Potomac Mills**, 14619 Potomac Mills Road, Woodbridge, ☎ 703-494-4433, has 176 rooms including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. There's a guest laundry, a games room and an outdoor pool. Complimentary continental breakfast. $$

**Dumfries Econo Lodge**, 17005 Dumfries Road, Dumfries, ☎ 800-424-4777, has 134 rooms including efficiencies, handicapped and non-smoking rooms available. There's also a full-service restaurant. A complimentary continental breakfast are provided. $$

**Woodbridge Econo Lodge**, 13317 Gordon Boulevard, Woodbridge, ☎ 703-491-5196 or 800-424-4777, has 65 rooms, including non-smoking rooms. Complimentary continental breakfast. $$

**The Friendship Inn**, 13964 Jefferson Davis Highway, Woodbridge, ☎ 703-494-4144 or 800-424-4777, has 39 rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. Free morning coffee. $

**The Holiday Inn Express**, 17133 Dumfries Road, Dumfries, ☎ 703-221-1141 or 800-HOLIDAY, has 186 rooms. Handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms are available. There's a game room and outdoor pool. Complimentary continental breakfast. $$

**Ramada Inn-Quantico**, 4316 Inn Street, Triangle, ☎ 703-221-1181, has 140 rooms, including handicapped-accessible rooms. Restaurant, lounge, several meeting rooms, and banquet facilities for 250. $$

**The Super 8**, 17336 Jefferson Davis Highway, Dumfries, VA 22026, ☎ 703-221-8838 or 800-800-8000, has 81 rooms, including handicapped-accessible rooms. $$

**The US Inn**, 4202 Inn Street, Triangle, ☎ 703-221-1115, has 80 rooms, including handicapped-accessible rooms. There's also a restaurant. $-$$

## *Manassas*

**Best Western Battlefield Inn**, 10820 Balls Ford Road, ☎ 703-361-8000, has 121 rooms. Full-service restaurant, meeting room, a lounge and an outdoor pool. $$

**The Best Western Manassas**, 8640 Mathis Avenue, ☎ 703-368-7070, has 60 rooms. There's also a restaurant, a meeting room, four Jacuzzi suites, a fitness room and a lounge with live entertainment. Complimentary coffee. $$

**The Courtyard by Marriott**, 10701 Battleview Parkway, VA 22110, ☎ 703-335-1300 or 800-443-6000, has 149 rooms, including 12 suites. Amenities include several meeting rooms, banquet facilities, indoor swimming pool, exercise room, whirlpool and guest laundry. $$$

**The Days Inn**, 10653 Balls Ford Road, ☎ 703-368-2800, has 120 rooms. There is a swimming pool. $$

**The Hampton Inn**, 7295 Williamson Boulevard, ☎ 703-369-1100 or 800-HAMPTON, has 125 rooms. There's also a meeting room, several Jacuzzi rooms, an exercise room and an outdoor pool. Complimentary continental breakfast. $$

**Holiday Inn Manassas**, 10800 Vandor Lane, ☎ 703-335-0000, has 158 rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. Facilities include full-service restaurant, a meeting room, fitness room, lounge and an outdoor pool. $$

**Old Towne Inn**, 9403 Main Street, ☎ 703-368-9191 or 888-869-6446, offers 56 rooms in the heart of Old Town Manassas. Non-smoking rooms available. $$

**Red Roof Inn**, 10610 Automotive Drive, ☎ 703-335-9333, has 119 rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. Complimentary coffee is available in the lobby. $-$$

**Super 8**, 8691 Phoenix Drive, ☎ 703-369-6323 or 800-800-8000, has 78 rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. There's a restaurant next door, a fitness room and an indoor pool. $$

**Super 8** , 7249 New Market Court, ☎ 703-369-1700 or 800-800-8000, has 150 rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. $$

## *Bed & Breakfasts / Inns*

**Bennett House**, 9252 Bennett Drive, Manassas, ☎ 703-368-6121, has two guest rooms in a Victorian country inn in historic Old Town. There are porches, patios, and four-poster beds. Breakfast and afternoon tea are served to guests. $$-$$$

**Shiloh Bed and Breakfast**, 13520 Carriage Ford Road, Nokesville, ☎ 703-594-2664, is a Georgian-style home on a 150-acre plantation over-

looking a lake. There are two suites, each with private bath, kitchen and entrance. Full gourmet breakfast provided, and a hot tub and gazebo are available. $$$

**Sunrise Hill Farm**, 5590 Old Farm Lane, Manassas, ☎ 703-754-8309, has two guest rooms and is located in the heart of the Manassas Battlefield. The home is furnished with European and American antiques. A full gourmet breakfast is served. Horseback is a popular way to the see battlefield, and the inn offers boarding for horses. $$

### *Camping*

**Greenville Farms Campground** is 43 wooded acres on a 200-acre working farm. There are 150 sites, 25 with full hook-ups, 100 with electric and water, and 10 with no hookups. There is fishing and planned activities. Open year-round, limited in winter. Located at 14004 Shelter Lane, Haymarket. ☎ 703-754-7944.

**Hillwood Camping Park** has 140 sites, all with full hook-ups. Located on Route 295 in Gainesville. ☎ 800-754-4202.

**Mountain View Campground** has125 sites, 20 with full hook-ups, 85 with water and electric, and 20 with no hookups. There are boat rentals, fishing and swimming on Silver Lake, picnic areas, bathhouse, and sewage disposal. Located off Route 681 on Silver Road, Haymarket. ☎ 703-753-2267.

**Travel Trailer Village**, at Prince William Forest Park, has 75 sites, 29 full hookups, and the 46 with electric and water. There is a swimming pool, playground, laundry and it's open year-round. Located on Route 234 South. ☎ 703-221-2474.

## *Transportation*

Prince William County is served by two major and one regional airports, all within 35 miles.

**Washington Dulles International Airport** is a landmark structure designed by Eero Saarinen. The airport is in the Virginia suburbs 18 miles from Prince William County, and is rapidly becoming the airport of choice for an increasing number of international, transcontinental and domestic passengers. The airport can be reached via Route 28 going north from the Manassas area.

The airport information number is ☎ 703-471-7596, and the office is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Scheduled services are offered by most of the world's major carriers.

**Ronald Reagan National Airport.** The newly-renamed airport is adjacent to the Potomac River in Virginia, about a 3½-mile ride from down-

town Washington, and 22 miles north of Prince William County. The airport offers domestic departures to more than 60 cities non-stop.

The airport information telephone number is ☎ 703-685-8000 and it is open daily 7 a.m. until 10 p.m.

Scheduled services are offered by American Airlines, America West, Continental, Delta, Midway, Midwest Express, Northwest Airlines, Trans World, United, and US Air.

**Manassas Municipal Airport** is the number one relief airport for both Washington Dulles and Ronald Reagan National airports. There are two runways at Manassas: one 3,700 feet, the other 5,700 feet. The longer runway is scheduled to be increased to 6,700 feet. Facilities at the airport include instrument landing systems, two fixed-base operations for instruction, two helicopter flight training schools, two fixed-base hangers and six corporate hangers, 17 executive hangers, 96 "T" hangers, and one common hanger. The fixed-base operators include Dulles Aviation and Presidential Aircraft Services.

**Amtrak** stops at stations in Manassas, Quantico and Woodbridge. The Manassas stop is one block east of Grand Avenue (no ticket sales are available – tickets should be bought in advance from a travel agent, or from Amtrak by using a credit card over the phone). The stop at Quantico is on Railroad Avenue. For schedules and fare information, ☎ 800-872-7245.

**The Virginia Railway Express** is Northern Virginia's commuter rail service. "The Express," opened in June 1992, runs on tracks owned by Amtrak, Conrail, Norfolk & Southern Railway, and CSX/RF&P Railway. The Fredericksburg Line operates north and south along the banks of the Potomac River between Fredericksburg and Union Station in Washington DC. The Manassas Line operates east and west between Broad Run/Manassas Airport and Union Station. The Express stations at Alexandria, Crystal City, L'Enfant, and Union Station are all within walking distance of Metrorail. Four round-trips are available, Monday through Friday, on each line with inbound services scheduled to accommodate commuters who start work between 7 and 9 a.m. and finish between 4:30 and 6:30 p.m. For information, ☎ 703-497-7777**.**

**Greyhound Lines Inc.** buses pick up passengers going north to Washington DC, or south to Fredericksburg and Richmond, at two eastern county locations, neither of which are full-service terminals: **Triangle**, 18518 Jefferson Davis Highway, ☎ 703-221-4080; and **Woodbridge**, 14010 Jefferson Davis Highway, ☎ 703-494-6718.

A Greyhound Suburban Bus Station is located north of Woodbridge in Springfield near I-95 at 6583 Backlick Road. For schedule information and fares, ☎ 703-451-5801.

### *Airport Transfers, Shuttles & Tours*

**Franklin Motorcoach**, ☎ 703-257-1675 or 800-899-1675.

**Historyland Tours**, ☎ 703-368-7910, 10115 Erin Court, Manassas, offers excursion tours and tours of the battlefield.

**Mid-Atlantic Receptive services**, ☎ 800-765-5912 or 703-678-9460, specializes in group tours and packages.

**Rooms Plus** in Dale City, ☎ 800-241-7268, offers tour operation and planning.

## *Information*

**The Prince William County Visitor Information Center**, ☎ 703-491-4045, is located at 200 Mill Street, in Occoquan.

**The Prince William County/Manassas Conference and Visitors Bureau.** Write the bureau for information at 14420 Bristow Road, Manassas, VA 20112-3932, ☎ 800-432-1792 or visit www.visitpwc.com.

# *The Coastal Region*

## Hampton Roads

Hampton Roads, one of the world's finest and largest natural harbors, is a wide, deep channel in southeastern Virginia through which the James River flows into Chesapeake Bay.

The term is the old seafaring name given to the water "roads" around the mouth of the Chesapeake, and has, since Colonial days, been a key factor in the defense of the United States.

It was here, where southeastern Virginia meets the sea, that dawn's early light broke on the opening act in American history. Here the first permanent English-speaking settlers made their home, and the deciding battle of America's war for independence was staged.

On the shores of the bay and along the banks of the fast-flowing rivers which spilled into it grew the towns and cities of the New World. On the north side of Hampton Roads the colonial towns of Jamestown, Yorktown and Williamsburg, and the cities of Hampton and Newport News – locally known as "the Peninsula" – sprang up and prospered. On the south side, Norfolk emerged as a powerful seaport and staging area for America's naval might.

Hampton Roads is the home of the Atlantic Fleet and the largest naval installation in the world. Here astronauts trained for moon missions, and aircraft carriers are commissioned and sent around the world.

Virginia Beach is the most populated city in the Commonwealth, Suffolk the largest in land area, and Chesapeake one of the fastest-growing. These changes have made Hampton Roads the 27th largest metropolitan area in the nation, the fastest growing in Virginia and a great place to visit.

### *The Weather*

Depending upon the time of year, you can expect any type of weather from hurricanes to ice storms, while in the summertime temperatures frequently approach 100°. July is the warmest month with a daily high temperature averaging near 90°. The coolest month is January with a normal high of 50°, and the average annual snowfall is less than eight inches.

# Hampton

Nearly four centuries ago the Kecoughtan Indians welcomed the first settlers to the shores of Hampton. Today, Hampton continues the welcoming tradition by hosting visitors from around the world.

Hampton's heritage encompasses the traditions of the military, the beginnings of free education, the downfall of Blackbeard the pirate, the Civil War and the training of America's first astronauts.

Today, Hampton is a unique combination of small-town charm and big city amenities. On the city's revitalized waterfront, visitors can board a boat for a narrated tour of the Chesapeake Bay, and explore the space age artifacts in the world-class Virginia Air and Space Center and Hampton Roads History Center. They can experience the thrill of a giant-screen IMAX movie or take a spin on an antique carousel. And that's only a beginning. The new HarborLink high-speed ferry connects downtown Hampton with downtown Norfolk, making it easier to visit both cities in one day.

Hampton also offers two Civil War forts, African-American heritage sites, Bay-front beaches, self-guided walking and driving tours, great seafood restaurants and a choice of moderately priced hotels. Plus, Hampton's central location makes it the perfect base for day-trips to Colonial Williamsburg and Virginia Beach.



## *History*

It was on July 9, 1610, almost two years after Captain John Smith's epic voyage of discovery, that the first English colonists founded the settlement that would eventually become Hampton.

Less than 10 years after the settlement was established, the first African slaves to arrive in North America stepped ashore from a Dutch ship at Old Point Comfort. Thus began a chain of events that would last for more than 240 years and end only with the defeat of the Confederacy in 1865.

The years that followed the settlement on Hampton Roads brought prosperity to the area. Unfortunately, that was not all it brought. Privateering and piracy had been a well established source of riches for a number of years beginning with the royal-sanctioned voyages of **Captains John Hawkins** and **Francis Drake** during Queen Elizabeth's reign in the late 1500s. By the early 1700s, piracy had become the scourge of the seas. As in the Civil War days yet to come, merchant ships had to run the gauntlet of dozens of fast predator ships in order to make safe haven in Hampton Roads. The most famous of those predators was Edward Teach – **Blackbeard**.

In 1718, **Governor Alexander Spotwood** decided that something had to be done. During the fall of that year he sent an expedition to capture Teach. On November 21, Lieutenant Robert Maynard cornered Blackbeard and engaged his crew in a fierce battle. During the fray Blackbeard received some 20 sword and five pistol wounds, but he fought on until he finally dropped dead. His head was severed from his body and, along with his surviving crew members, was carried back to Hampton, where it was stuck on a pole and raised at the entrance to the harbor – a grim warning to other pirates.

For almost 150 years after Blackbeard's death, Hampton's fortunes continued to improve and the community grew. Then, on May 2, 1861, the city ratified a vote to secede from the Union and join the Confederacy.

On March 9, 1862, the most famous naval action of the **Civil War**, the conflict between the Confederate ironclad *CSS Virginia* and the *USS Monitor* took place in Hampton Roads harbor. The battle between the two behemoths lasted for more than four hours, only to end in a stalemate. Neither ship sustained any serious damage during the action, but the concept of naval warfare had changed forever.

It wasn't too long after the famous naval battle that Norfolk fell to Federal forces. From then on, the area remained in Union hands until the end of the war. Fort Monroe was the jumping-off point for General George B. McClellan's ill-fated Peninsula Campaign of 1862, and the place where Jefferson Davis and several members of his cabinet were incarcerated at the end of the war. Many influential members of the Federal government wanted the Confederate president executed for war crimes, but eventually he was released; he left Fort Monroe on May 13, 1868.

**Langley Field** opened as the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics on August 17, 1917. It was the beginning of a new era of prosperity for Hampton; America was about to take to the skies in earnest. By 1935, Langley Field had become the center of tactical aviation for the US Army. On October 4, 1956, the first truly supersonic fighter airplane, the Super Saber, was christened *Miss Hampton*.

With the advent of supersonic flight it seemed to be only a small step for man to achieve the velocity needed to escape the earth's atmosphere and venture off into the last great unknown – space. And so it was, on October 1, 1958, the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics became the National Aeronautics and Space Administration – **NASA**.

America's first astronauts were chosen on April 1, 1959, and the "magnificent seven" arrived at Langley to embark upon one of the toughest training programs ever devised. The result of that program was the epic flight into space made by Marine **Colonel John Glenn** on February 20, 1962. Glenn orbited the earth three times in the Mercury capsule *Friendship 7,* and so became the first American in orbit.

Today, Hampton is a prosperous port city proud of its contribution both to aerospace and to the history of the nation. Fortunately for visitors to Hampton, much of its history lives on through its attractions, museums and historic sites.

## *Sights*

Exploring historic Hampton is easy. The city's **Circle Tour** – you can start your tour wherever you see one of the blue and white tour signs – will guide you to a turn-of-the-century carousel, a modern air and space center, an outstanding ethnic museum, a moat-encircled pre-Civil War fortress, and many other interesting sites. Visitors can tour downtown Hampton either on foot or by car. The walking tour of all the suggested stops will take a morning or an afternoon. The driving tour will take about 3½ hours. Add a boat trip and your tour of the city will take about three hours more. So, put on your walking shoes, start your engines, and take the plunge.

**The Hampton Visitor Center**, 710 Settlers Landing Road, is at downtown Hampton's public piers, ☎ 800-800-2202. Designed to resemble a lighthouse, it offers maps, brochures and a souvenir shop. Take the steps up to the second floor and enjoy a panoramic view from the balcony overlooking the Hampton River. Across the river from the center is **Hampton University**, one of the nation's top historically black colleges. It was founded in 1868 as one of the first institutions of higher learning for freed people; its most famous graduate was Booker T. Washington.

**The Customs House Marina** provides space for both resident and transient boats. Behind the marina you may see the masts of several commercial fishing boats. These vessels ply the waters of the Chesapeake Bay daily, harvesting scallops, crabs, fish and oysters.

**The Hampton Carousel.** Built in 1920, this antique merry-go-round features 48 intricately carved horses and two stately chariots. Restored in 1991 to its original beauty, the carousel was a featured attraction at Hampton's Buckroe Beach Amusement Park for nearly 65 years. It is now housed at the city's downtown waterfront. Stop in for a ride or just listen to the original calliope. The carousel is open April through October, Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. until 8 p.m., and on Sunday from noon until 6 p.m. ☎ 757-727-6381.

**The Virginia Air and Space Center-Hampton**, the birthplace of America's space program, is at 600 Settlers Landing Road in downtown Hampton, ☎ 757-727-0800. Opened in 1992, this $29 million facility serves as the official visitors center for the NASA Langley Research Center and houses some dramatic objects related to the space program. There is a three-billion-year-old moon rock that was collected during the *Apollo 17* mission, the *Apollo 12* command module that journeyed to the moon and back, and a replica of the Lunar Orbiter that mapped the moon's sur-

face for future landings. The center's open-air observation deck overlooks the Hampton River and offers a bird's-eye view of the river and Hampton Roads Harbor. Inside the center is a 280-seat IMAX theater. The center is open from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m., Monday through Wednesday, and from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m., Thursday through Sunday, Memorial Day through Labor Day; after Labor Day, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. ☎ 800-296-0800.

**NASA Langley Tour.** Tours start at the Virginia Air and Space Center. The motorcoach tour transports you to the site where the nation's aerospace history began. As the birthplace of NASA, the Langley Research Center is home to five historic landmarks. The tour includes a close-up look at several of NASA's wind tunnels which can operate at speeds of up to 17,500 miles per hour, and a visit to the giant scaffolding works from which three space capsules were once dropped to simulate lunar landings. Tour leave daily at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. (no 11 a.m. tour on Sunday). ☎ 800-296-0800.

**Fort Monroe and the Casemate Museum.** Named in honor of President James Monroe, this is the largest stone fort ever built in the United States and the only moat-encircled fort still in active use. The fort, a National Historic Landmark, is home to the Army's Training and Doctrine Command.

Visitors to Fort Monroe can walk along the fortress ramparts just as Abraham Lincoln did as he watched his forces capture the city of Norfolk during the Civil War. Inside Fort Monroe is a series of caverns that house the Casemate Museum. These caverns were originally built to house the fort's guns. Today, they contain exhibits of weapons, Civil War memorabilia and uniforms. The cell in which Confederate President Jefferson Davis was imprisoned after the Civil War is preserved as a part of the museum.

❖ *Writer Edgar Allen Poe served at Fort Monroe as an enlisted man before pursuing his writing career.*

Other historic sites inside Fort Monroe include the Seacoast Batteries, built between 1891 and 1920, overlooking Hampton Roads harbor and Fort Wool; and the Lincoln gun, the first 15-inch Rodman gun ever made. Fort Monroe is open daily year-round from 10:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. ☎ 757-727-3391. Fort Monroe is accessed via Mercury Boulevard and Mellen Street through Hampton's Phoebus District.

**St. John's Church**, 100 W. Queens Way, downtown Hampton, ☎ 757-722-2567, was established in 1610. It is the oldest continuous English-speaking parish in the United States. Its tree-lined churchyard holds graves dating back to 1701 and includes a memorial to Virginia Laydon, the first surviving child born in the New World. The parish's most cherished possession is the communion silver made in London in 1618 – the oldest communion silver in continuous use in an area originally settled by the English. Another prized feature at St. John's is a stained-glass win-

dow depicting the baptism of the Indian princess, Pocahontas. The church is open Monday through Friday year-round from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m., and on Saturday 9 a.m. until noon. No tours on Sunday due to services. ☎ 757-722-2567.

**Kings Way and Queens Way.** Since Hampton's earliest settlement the corner of King and Queen Streets has served as its commercial hub. Take a few moments to read the bronze historical markers affixed to the buildings.

The **Hampton University Museum** is quickly becoming one of America's most important museums. It's located in the Huntigton Building at Ogden Circle on the Hampton University Campus. Founded in 1868, the museum is the second-oldest in Virginia. Its collection includes art and artifacts from cultures and nations worldwide, focusing on African, African-American and Native American, and includes Henry O. Tanner's famous painting "The Banjo Lesson." In addition, the campus is the site of six national historic monuments, including the Emancipation Oak where President Abraham Lincoln's *Emancipation Proclamation* was first read to Hampton's newly-freed people. The campus is open daily until dusk. The museum is open Monday through Friday 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., and weekends from noon until 4 p.m. ☎ 757-727-5308 or www.hamtonu.edu.

**Air Power Park** is home to one of the largest civilian-owned collections of aircraft and missiles in the United States. Surrounding the park's information center are aircraft from the nation's various military services. These include a Nike surface-to-air missile, a P-1127 Kestrel vertical-lift jet, and an F-110D Super Sabre, the first Air Force fighter with true supersonic performance. The park, located at 413 W. Mercury Boulevard, Hampton, is open daily from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. ☎ 757-727-1163.

**Bluebird Gap Farm**, a unique city park designed to resemble a working farm, provides children with an opportunity to see and touch the resident pigs, horses, cows and goats. Several wild animals, many of which were brought to the farm with serious injuries, have also been adopted by the farm's staff. The farm is open year-round Wednesday through Sunday, from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. It's at 60 Pine Chapel Road, near the Coliseum area of Hampton. ☎ 757-727-6739.

**Buckroe Beach**, at the end of Pembroke Avenue, is the place to relax and enjoy some fun in the sun, sand and waves. Bordering the Chesapeake Bay, Buckroe's clean sand and gentle surf are ideal for children. Lifeguards are always on duty during the season, and the pavilion hosts big-band concerts and other events during the summer. Picnic shelters are available for a nominal fee. The beach is open daily year-round.

**The Charles H. Taylor Arts Center**, 4205 Victoria Blvd., showcases changing exhibits of regional artists. It is open Tuesday through Friday, and on weekends. ☎ 757-722-2787 or visit www.hampton.va.us/arts.

**Grandview Nature Preserve** is a pristine waterfront preserve and estuary ideal for observing the local wild and marine life, hiking and birdwatching. The 578-acre preserve includes a 2½-mile stretch of bayfront beach. ☎ 757-727-6347.

The **HarborLink Passenger Ferry** operates year-round, carrying commuters and day-trippers from the public pier in downtown Hampton to Norfolk's downtown waterfront. Tickets are $5 one way and can be purchased on board. Combination tickets that include admission to Norfolk's Nauticus, and Hampton's Virginia Air and Space Center are available. The 149-passenger yacht has airline-style seating, a VIP lounge and outdoor observation decks. It makes six 45-minute trips daily. ☎ 877-HRFERRY or visit www.harborlink.com.

**The *Miss Hampton II* Harbor Tours.** The *Miss Hampton II* is a two-decker, 65-foot tour boat that carries visitors from the Hampton Visitor Center dock out into Hampton Roads harbor. As it cruises past the world's largest naval base, the boat provides spectacular views of aircraft carriers, nuclear submarines, destroyers and frigates.

Before the boat returns to Hampton, it docks at Fort Wool, an island fortress, for a 45-minute guided tour that covers the fort's role during the Civil War. Cruises depart the dock at the Hampton Visitors Center twice daily at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Memorial Day through Labor Day. ☎ 1-888-757-BOAT.

**Fort Wool** is located on an artificial island in the middle of Hampton Roads harbor. Abandoned by the army in 1967, the fort's remaining fortifications include cannon casemates dating back to the Civil War. Constructed partially under the direction of Robert E. Lee, it offers spectacular views of the harbor, Chesapeake Bay and ships departing and arriving from around the world. For tour information, see the preceding listing or ☎ 888-757-BOAT.

The ***Venture Inn II*** is a 62-foot yacht that departs from Downtown Hampton Public Piers for whale-watching, fishing and evening "adventure" cruises featuring nautical and maritime history. Daily fishing tours depart at 8 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Night fishing trips depart at 7 to 11 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Sea Saga/Twilight Tales tours run Thursday through Sunday. For more information on seasonal whale-watches and eco-safaris, ☎ 757-850-8960 or 757-722-5120.

**Sandy Bottom Nature Preserve** opened in 1996 and represents the reclaiming of 450 acres once used to mine sand. Now a city-owned park, Sandy Bottom is a sanctuary for animals and humans amidst a growing metropolitan area. The nature center continues to evolve, with well-presented exhibits on the animals and plants in the region. There are nature trails, camping and two lakes – remnants of the sand excavation – for fishing and boating. The nature center is open daily except Monday, and park is open daily from sunrise to sunset. ☎ 757-825-4657.

# *Events*

**The Hampton Jazz Festival**, held at the Coliseum in late June attracts America's most successful jazz and contemporary musicians. ☎ 757-838-5650 for the featured artists and tickets.

**The Afrikan American Festival**, held in conjunction with the Hampton Jazz Festival in June, is a family-oriented event that offers live music, ethnic food, and African and African-American arts and crafts. Held at Mill Point Park in downtown Hampton. ☎ 800-800-2202.

Hampton Bay Days, held in September, is one of Hampton Roads' premiere festivals, with national recording acts, seafood and exhibits relating to the ecology of the Chesapeake Bay. There's a midway with rides, and the city's downtown streets become pedestrian concourses packed with arts and crafts booths and a juried art show. ☎ 800-800-2202.

**The Hampton Cup Regatta** is the oldest powerboat race in the United States. This mid-August event draws some of the fastest inboards and hydroplanes to the East Coast for the three-day race series. Boaters race at Mill Creek near Fort Monroe. ☎ 800-800-2202.

**Hampton Holly Days.** Hampton's historic downtown and waterfront districts provide the staging area for the city's annual Christmas holiday celebration. This includes the lighting of the official city Christmas tree, a lighted boat parade, a downtown street parade, romantic horse-and-carriage rides and a children's "Breakfast with Santa Claus." The popular Parade of Sail culminates with arrival of Santa and Mrs. Claus by boat. ☎ 800-800-2202 for details.

In Hampton, the old neighborhood of Phoebus celebrates **Phoebus Days** ever October. This three-day block party has music, tournaments, a parade and seafood. ☎ 757-722-0625.

# *Entertainment*

The new **AMC 24**, ☎ 757-896-2330, at Hampton Towne Centre on Big Bethel Road, is one of Virginia's largest theaters, with an amazing 24 screens.

**Fathoms – 20,000 Leagues Under the Street**, in the basement of the Second Street Restaurant at 132 E. Queen Street, is a nightclub and comedy club. ☎ 757-728-0100.

**The Hampton Coliseum** is an architectural jewel, circa 1970's, placed among 75 acres of landscaped parkland with a 14-acre fresh-water lake. The Coliseum, at 1000 Coliseum Drive, is equipped with a large portable stage and a fully-equipped sound system. For more information and a schedule of events, ☎ 757-838-5650.

**Langley Speedway**, 3165 N. Armistead Avenue, hosts NASCAR Winston Series racing series and local stock races on a classic short track. Races are every weekend from April through October. ☎ 757-865-1100.

## *Shopping*

For more than 200 years merchant ships sailing into Hampton Roads from exotic places around the world stopped first at the Royal Customs House in Hampton. There the great ships unloaded their cargoes of tea, spices, silk, tools, furnishings and other items. It was a time for excitement and celebration, because the colonists flocked into the city to purchase the latest imports and hear the news from their homelands.

Today, Hampton is still a great place to shop. The city's renovated downtown waterfront district, which incorporates the site of the old seaport, is liberally sprinkled with restaurants, pubs, art galleries, antique shops and dozens of other interesting outlets and stores. Its cobblestone streets are lined with red brick sidewalks and crape myrtle trees.

**Phoebus**, a few miles from downtown, is a charming, turn-of-the-century neighborhood with a Victorian feel, antique and curio shops and seafood restaurants.

In the **Coliseum Central** district, you're likely to find just about anything you need. Focused along Hampton's busy Mercury Boulevard, you'll find bustling shopping centers and the massive Coliseum Mall, which underwent a major renovation in 1998 for its 25th anniversary. Hecht's, Dillard's and JC Penney are anchor stores for more than 200 retail outlets.

> ❖ *Hampton's shopping districts – downtown, Phoebus and Coliseum Central – are linked by a trolley system that costs a quarter and makes it possible to visit all three in a single day.*

## *Recreation*

Recreation in Hampton means either relaxation or water sports. For a quiet afternoon of sunbathing, sea and sand there's no place better than **Buckroe Beach**. The gentle surf and shallow waters are ideal for the kids, with lifeguards on duty in-season.

If it's hiking you enjoy, try **Sandy Bottom Nature Park** on Big Bethel Road, or **Grandview Nature Preserve** off Beach Road. Sandy Bottom has eight miles of trail on 450 acres. Grandview is a 578-acre marshland preserve ideal for wildlife and birdwatching, with two miles of pristine beach for hiking on the Chesapeake Bay.

For the angler there are fishing piers at **Grandview** and **Buckroe Beach**, and charter fishing boats depart from Hampton's downtown waterfront for excursions on the Chesapeake Bay.

Golfers can chose from two 18-hole golf courses, the **Hamptons Golf Course** on Butler Farm Road, and **The Woodlands** on Settlers Landing Road.

**Sandy Bottom Nature Park**, on Big Bethel Road and just off I-64, has nine primitive, walk-in sites, and three sites already set up with tents and cots. Flush toilets, but no showers as of yet. Call 757-825-4657.

## *Dining*

As one might imagine, Hampton, with its waterfront district and historic downtown area, offers an abundance of small cafés, fast food eateries, and fine restaurants. If it's a quick breakfast on the way to the boat or the beach, or an evening of fine dining that you're looking for, you'll find plenty to suit your taste.

**Bobby's Americana**, 17 E. Queens Way, ☎ 757-727-0545, is one of the newest offerings in Hampton's Olde Towne. This two-story bistro is owned by one of Hampton Road's most adventurous chefs, who serves Southeast Asian and American Southwest cuisine.

**Carmela's Pasta Café**, in Coliseum Crossing off Mercury Boulevard, ☎ 757-825-5375, is a favorite among locals, known for mix-and-match pastas and great desserts.

**The Gray Goose**, 101-A W. Queens Way, ☎ 757-723-7978, is a quaint Southern-style tea room that serves ample portions of Virginia's stews and chowders. Specialties include crab soup, Virginia ham biscuits and delicious desserts. Only open for lunch and tea.

**The Grapevine**, 2040 Coliseum Drive, ☎ 757-825-0590, has an imaginative, eclectic menu, freshly made desserts, and an extensive wine list.

**Musasi Restaurant**, 49 W. Queens Way, ☎ 757-728-0298, is a sushi bar and sit down restaurant in the heart of downtown. The cuisine and hospitality are authentic Japanese.

**Oyster Alley**, in the Radisson Hotel at 700 Settlers Landing Road, ☎ 757-727-9700, offers seasonal outdoor, waterfront dining. Specialties include fresh seafood, salads and sandwiches.

**Pier 21**,, also in the Radisson Hotel at 700 Settlers Landing Road, ☎ 757-727-9700, offers more formal indoor dining with a view of the marina. Specialties include fresh seafood and delicious desserts.

**Pottery Wine and Cheese**, 22 Wine Street, ☎ 757-722-VINO, offers a world-class selection of fine wines, imported beers and outdoor cafe-style seating. Box lunches are available.

**Sam's Seafood Restaurant**, 23 Water Street, ☎ 757-723-3709, is located on among the fishing docks of the Phoebus neighborhood and offers a spectacular view of the Chesapeake Bay. Fried seafood is the specialty.

**Second Street Restaurant and Tavern**, 132 E. Queen St., ☎ 757-722-6811, occupies the city's former post office. The stern columns and gray limestone exterior give way to an imaginatively decorated interior. It has two stories with a balcony overlooking a mural of Olde Towne, and outdoor patio dining. Sandwiches, burgers and munchies are Second Street's forte, and the portions are plentiful.

## *Accommodations*

Most establishments offer both handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms, but be sure to ask when making reservations.

### *Hotels & Motels*

**The Chamberlin**, located on Fort Monroe, ☎ 800-582-8975, offers a unique lodging experience inside an historic resort hotel. There are185 guest rooms, with views of either the Chesapeake Bay or the historic fort. Non-smoking rooms are available and there is a full-service restaurant, a lounge, indoor and outdoor pools, meeting rooms, exercise facilities and sauna. $$

**Courtyard by Marriott**, 1917 Coliseum Drive, ☎ 757-838-3300, has 146 guest rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. There is a full-service restaurant, a café, coffee in the rooms, valet service, a heated swimming pool, meeting rooms and an exercise room. $$

**Fairfield Inn By Marriott**, 1905 Coliseum Drive, ☎ 757-827-7400, has 134 guest rooms. There are handicapped-accessible and on-smoking rooms, a pool, and free continental breakfast. $$

**Hampton Inn**, 1813 W. Mercury Boulevard, ☎ 757-838-8484, has 132 rooms. The hotel offers handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms, free coffee in the lobby, valet service, pool privileges and a free continental breakfast. $$

**Holiday Inn**, 1815 Mercury Boulevard, ☎ 757-838-0200, has 321 rooms. There are handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms, a full-service restaurant, room service, a bar, a café, valet service, two pools, meeting rooms, an exercise room and free airport transportation. $$$

**Quality Inn & Conference Center**, 1809 W. Mercury Boulevard, ☎ 757-838-5011, has 179 rooms. There are handicapped-accessible and

non-smoking rooms, a full-service restaurant, room service, a bar, a café, coffee in the rooms, and an indoor pool. $$

**Radisson Hotel Hampton**, 700 Settlers Landing Road, ☎ 757-727-9700, has 172 rooms. The hotel has handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms, a full-service restaurant, room service, a bar, a café, coffee in the rooms, valet service, a swimming pool, pool-side service, a shopping arcade, meeting rooms and free airport transportation. Some rooms have river and marina views and whirlpool tubs. $$$

### *Bed & Breakfasts / Inns*

**Victoria House**, on Hampton's historic Victoria Boulevard, ☎ 757-722-2658, is a late-1800 Queen Anne-style house. There are four rooms, each with a private bath, air conditioning, cable, VCR and laptop hook-ups. Two sitting rooms are nicely decorated with antiques. Rooms are non-smoking with either queen or king-size beds. One room has a two-person Jacuzzi. There is a wrap-around porch, a deck and gardens outside. $$-$$$

## *Transportation*

**The Newport News/Williamsburg International Airport** and the **Norfolk International Airports** are both within 30 minutes of downtown Hampton. Ground transportation is available through a variety of taxi and rental car companies.

**Amtrak**, ☎ 800-872-7245, serves nearby Newport News. **Greyhound Lines Inc.,** ☎ 800-231-2222, serves the city at 2 West Pembroke Ave., Hampton.

## *Information*

**Hampton Conventions & Tourism Bureau**, 2 Eaton Street, Hampton, VA 23660. ☎ 757-722-1222 or 800-487-8778.

**Hampton Visitor Center**, 710 Settlers Landing Road, Hampton, VA 23669. ☎ 800-800-2202.

**The Virginia Peninsula Chamber of Commerce**, 6 Manhattan Square, Hampton, VA 23666. ☎ 757-766-2000.

**AAA of Tidewater Virginia** is at 305 Martha Lee Drive. Take Exit 263-A off Interstate 64. ☎ 757-826-1061 or 800-258-1730.

# Newport News

Located between Colonial Williamsburg and Norfolk-Virginia Beach, Newport News stretches some 25 miles along the mighty James River. It is the home of the Newport News Shipbuilding, one of the world's largest shipyards and one of Virginia's largest employers.

A vacation in Newport News will take you through more than 250 years of maritime heritage and military history. There's plenty to see and do. Fine dining is available in a variety of traditional and ethnic restaurants. Add more than 30 special and annual events, 15 city parks, a five-mile walk on the picturesque Noland Trail, and a hundred-and-one waterborne activities, and you can expect a great vacation.

## *History*

On a balmy day in May, 1607, three small wooden ships sailed quietly into Hampton Roads and disappeared up the James River to land their passengers at Jamestown.

To the 143 men aboard those three ships that sailed around the point under the command of **Captain Christopher Newport** in 1607, the land here was a garden of Eden, a great mantle of deep green foliage, ancient trees, and sandy bluffs rolling down to the banks of the James River. Newport stopped at present-day Newport News point, calling it Point Hope. The idyllic shoreline had been discovered and would never be the same again, for within 10 years the first settlers had established the first small communities in the area.

Best known of the early settlers in the Newport News area was Captain Samuel Mathews. His great plantation, established sometime around 1629, was located where the Warwick River and Deep Creek met. During the 1960s, it was the site of a major archeological study.

Interesting are the words of an English pamphlet published in 1643 to promote Virginia. It describes Mathews and his plantation as follows:

He hath a fine house, and all things answerable to it; he sows yearly store of hemp and flax, and causes it to be spun; he keeps weavers and hath a tan house, causes leather to be dressed, hath eight shoemakers, employed in their trade, hath forty Negro servants, brings them up to trades in his house; he yearly sows abundance of wheat, barley, the wheat he selleth at four shillings the bushel, kills store of beeves and sells them to victual the ships when they come thither; hath abundance of kine, a brave dairy, swine great store, and poultry; he married the daughter of Sir Thomas Hinton, and in a word, keeps a good house, lives bravely, and a true lover of Virginia; he is worthy of much honor.

Mathews was not the only prominent early planter in the immediate Newport News area. **William Cole**, a member of the House of Burgesses in 1629, lived nearby at Nutmeg Quarter. **Thomas Harwood**, who arrived in Virginia in 1623, lived at Queen's Hill on Mulberry Island. Soon there were many more prominent families living nearby: the Peirseys, Roscows, Digges, and Carys all became a part of Virginia's golden age.

During the late 18th century, the fortunes of the local planters and the burgeoning tobacco industry continued to grow throughout Warwick and other Tidewater counties. Dirt roads were carved through the virgin forest to connect Newport News, Hampton, Yorktown and Williamsburg.

After the Revolutionary War, peace returned to Newport News and the surrounding area. Then came the War of 1812 and in June, 1813, a fleet of English warships under the joint command of Admirals Sir John Warren and George Cockburn sailed into the headwaters of Hampton Roads and anchored midway between Newport News Point and Norfolk. On June 21st the English tried to capture Craney Island and enter the Elizabeth River; they failed. Four days later they made a feint toward nearby Hampton while the main force of more that 2,500 men landed at Celey's plantation near Salter's Creek. This time the ruse worked, for while the Virginia militia were valiantly holding back the diversionary force the main force marched virtually unopposed into Hampton from the opposite direction. What followed then was typical for the times. Hampton was pillaged and property was looted.

For five months the English fleet remained in Hampton Roads, during which time they blocked the ports and stripped the surrounding countryside of its livestock and crops. The English left and returned once again to Newport News.

During the years that followed the War of 1812, the population of Warwick County remained stagnant.

In April, 1861, for the third time in less than a hundred years, war came to Virginia, this time with a vengeance. On May 25, 1861, only 48 days after Virginia had seceded from the Union, Major General Benjamin F. Butler, commanding US Volunteers, landed at the jetty at Newport News. Butler described the scene as follows: " *We landed at the little jetty at Newport News and climbed the banks. Here there burst upon my sight one of the finest scenes I ever beheld. At the point near the river was a farmer's house shaded by some very fine elms, and a field of some sixty or seventy acres, a perfect plain, covered with a beautiful growth of spring wheat waving in a light wind."*

Realizing the strategic importance of the point, Butler ordered Colonel John Wolcott Phelps to secure the area and fortify it. Phelps and his men built a palisade, dug a network of defensive trenches, and installed a battery of four seacoast guns, eight-inch Columbiads, at the entrance to the James River. Camp Butler was quickly established northward along the

river from the present Chesapeake and Ohio terminals, and once again the area fell victim to looting and pillaging. Butler punished the violators, but with more than 2,000 troops stationed in the area, and food in short supply, incidents of "foraging" continued.

On hearing of Butler's intrusion into Newport News, Confederate General Robert E. Lee was quick to respond. On June 10, 1861, some 1,400 Confederates clashed with a large force of more than 3,500 Federal troops at Big Bethel. The result was a decisive victory for the smaller Confederate army.

Camp Butler served throughout the war as a staging area for Union forces under the command of Fort Monroe, a role that the City of Newport News would continue through the Spanish American War and two World Wars.

Almost a year after Big Bethel, Newport News was witness to the naval battle that would change the course of history. In March, 1862, at the Gosport Navy Yard near Norfolk, Confederate engineers raised the sunken Union frigate *Merrimac* and went to work refurbishing it. They built a sloping casemate over her deck, sheathed it with four inches of iron plate, armed the ship with powerful rifled guns, and fitted a great iron ram to the bow. Then, on the afternoon of March 8, the ship, now called the *Virginia,* sailed forth in search of prey. Her first targets were the Union warships *Cumberland* and *Congress* blockading the mouth of the James River under the guns of Camp Butler.

The *Congress* was first to encounter the *Virginia.* She fired a broadside at the strange-looking ship, only to see the cannon balls bounce off the iron upper works. The *Virginia* ignored the *Congress* for the moment, concentrating instead on the *Cumberland*. Her powerful rifled guns smashed into the *Cumberland's* wooden hull, and then the iron ram burst through the ship's sides, tearing a hole that sent the doomed ship to the bottom.

By this time the *Virginia* had taken more than 100 hits from the federal cannon, but remained virtually unscathed. She turned her attention next to the *Congress* which, in a desperate attempt to escape the iron monster, beached herself on Newport News Point. With the defenseless Union ship now unable to run, the *Virginia* lay off and bombarded the *Congress* at will. Soon her hull was a blazing wreck. Then, at midnight, her magazine exploded, and 120 of her crew lay dead. It was a time of jubilation for the Confederacy, and one of great consternation for the Union. Help, however, was close at hand.

The following morning, the 9th of March, when the *Virginia* returned to the scene ready to deal the Union steam frigate *Minnesota* a similar fate as the two of the day before, the crew saw a strange craft lying alongside. The odd-looking ship, to be known thereafter as the "cheesebox on a raft," was the *USS Monitor,* an ironclad with its profile close to the waterline

and surmounted by a revolving gun turret. At six minutes after eight o'clock that morning the world's first battle of ironclads began.

For almost four hours the two great ships ranged up and down Hampton Roads, fighting at close quarters, firing hundreds of rounds from their great guns, all to no avail. By mid-day neither ship had suffered more than superficial damage, and both retired from the fray claiming victory.

On April 11, the *Virginia* sallied forth once again, but this time her challenge remained unanswered. The *Monitor* stuck close to shore under the protection of Fort Monroe's seacoast guns. It was to be the last serious outing for the *Virginia*, for on May 11, in an effort to deny the Federals her capture, her crew scuttled her off Craney Island. The *Monitor* fared little better, for she sank some seven months later in heavy seas off Cape Hatteras.

In the wake of the ironclads, came the 1862 Peninsula Campaign. Union Major General George B. McClellan's advance against Richmond was halted by Confederate Major General John Bankhead Magruder.

Following the end of the Civil War, it soon became obvious that the world in general, and the Hampton Roads area in particular, had changed forever. Industry, both in the north and in the south, was booming, and at the forefront, with its deep-waters ideally suited to the new ocean-going steamships, was Newport News.

First the railroads came to the area and Newport News was chosen as the Atlantic terminal for a continental rail system that would link the Atlantic to the Pacific. By May 1, 1882, the C&O line had begun regular through-train service from Newport News to the midwest. And with the coming of the railroads, Newport News began to grow.

Slowly the city took on the air of a booming frontier town. Saloons and bordellos catered to the dock workers and stevedores who frequented Hell's Half Acre around 18th Street. Railroad crews and the men who worked at the docks were billeted in dormitories and rail cars.

By the turn of the century, despite efforts to bring respectability to the town, it was still wide open, and would remain so for many a year to come. The saloons and dives on Hell's Half Acre continued to operate at full blast, vagrants and riffraff haunted the backstreets, lawlessness was rampant, and the good citizens were terrorized by a constant stream of nasty characters.

Shipbuilding had arrived in Newport News when the Chesapeake Dry Dock and Construction Company opened for business in 1886. By 1890 the name had been changed to the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company, and it was well on its way to becoming the largest and most efficient shipyard in the United States.

Together the railroads and the shipyard attracted other business to the area and Newport News became a Mecca for the skilled of the world. De-

signers and engineers, lured away from the mighty shipyards of Scotland, England and mainland Europe flocked to Newport News in search of a new life, and the growth continued at a breakneck pace.

By 1914 and the outbreak of the First World War, the area's population had grown to more than 35,000, and great steel battleships were being built at Newport News. The 15,000-ton battleship *Virginia* was launched on April 5th, 1904, and saw service through World War I. In 1916 the Curtiss Flying School was built on Newport News Point to train flyers, both American and Canadian. During its years of operation, hundreds of airmen won their wings on the little flying field overlooking Hampton Roads.

In 1918, the nation's first federal housing development, Hilton Village, was built for shipyard workers.

The end of the First World War also saw the end of Hell's Half Acre. The C&O finally acquired the land and used it to expand their coal-dumping facilities, and thus the blight that had settled on Newport News for more than 35 years was finally obliterated, the riffraff moved out, and respectability came to Newport News at last.

The year 1933 saw Adolph Hitler swept into power in Germany and the storm clouds over Europe gathered and darkened with the rise of the Nazi's Third Reich. In consequence, in 1936, the Maritime Commission began building 50 merchant ships per year ready for possible conversion to military use should the worst happen; the first contract went to Newport News for the 732-foot liner *America,* the largest ship ever built in the United States until that time. At the outbreak of the Second World Ward she was renamed and commissioned the *USS West Point.*

By 1940, shipbuilding was again underway in earnest. Already the carrier *USS Hornet* had been completed, and the *Essex, Bon Hom Richard,* and *Intrepid* were well under way, and work had begun on the *Kearsarge, Franklin, Ticonderoga, Randolph* and *Boxer.* The yard's last great battleship, the 35,000-ton *Indiana*, the 15th battleship built at Newport News, was completed in November, 1941. By 1943 the payroll at the shipyard had grown to more than 31,000, and the population of the area had reached 189,000. On June 3rd, 1943, the largest convoy of ships bearing combat troops of the 45th Infantry Division sailed from Newport News to join in the Allied assault on Sicily. As the main Port of Embarkation, 730,000 service men and women said good-bye from Newport News during the four years the United States was involved in the World War II.

By war's end, the city had by far outgrown its original boundaries. The streets were jammed with vehicles of all shapes and sizes, the ferry service between the Peninsula and Norfolk was inadequate, and many of the resident families were out of the city away from the noise and rising taxes of a city in urgent need of planning and control.

Warwick County, too, was in a stage of great upheaval, but with more control than that of Newport News. A County Manager style of government was installed in 1945 and moved its headquarters from Lee Hall to Hilton Village.

Fortunately, the powers that were in Newport News were not slow to grasp the city's need for a solution to its urban crisis. On July 1, 1958, Newport News and Warwick merged to become a greater Newport News. The new, consolidated city moved quickly to alleviate its problems. The public school system, waterworks, recreation facilities, and cultural resources all were expanded. Traffic routing was improved and access to the city was improved with the opening of the George P. Coleman Bridge across the York River in 1952, the Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel system in 1957, and Interstate Highway 64 through Newport News and Hampton during the years 1957 through 1960.

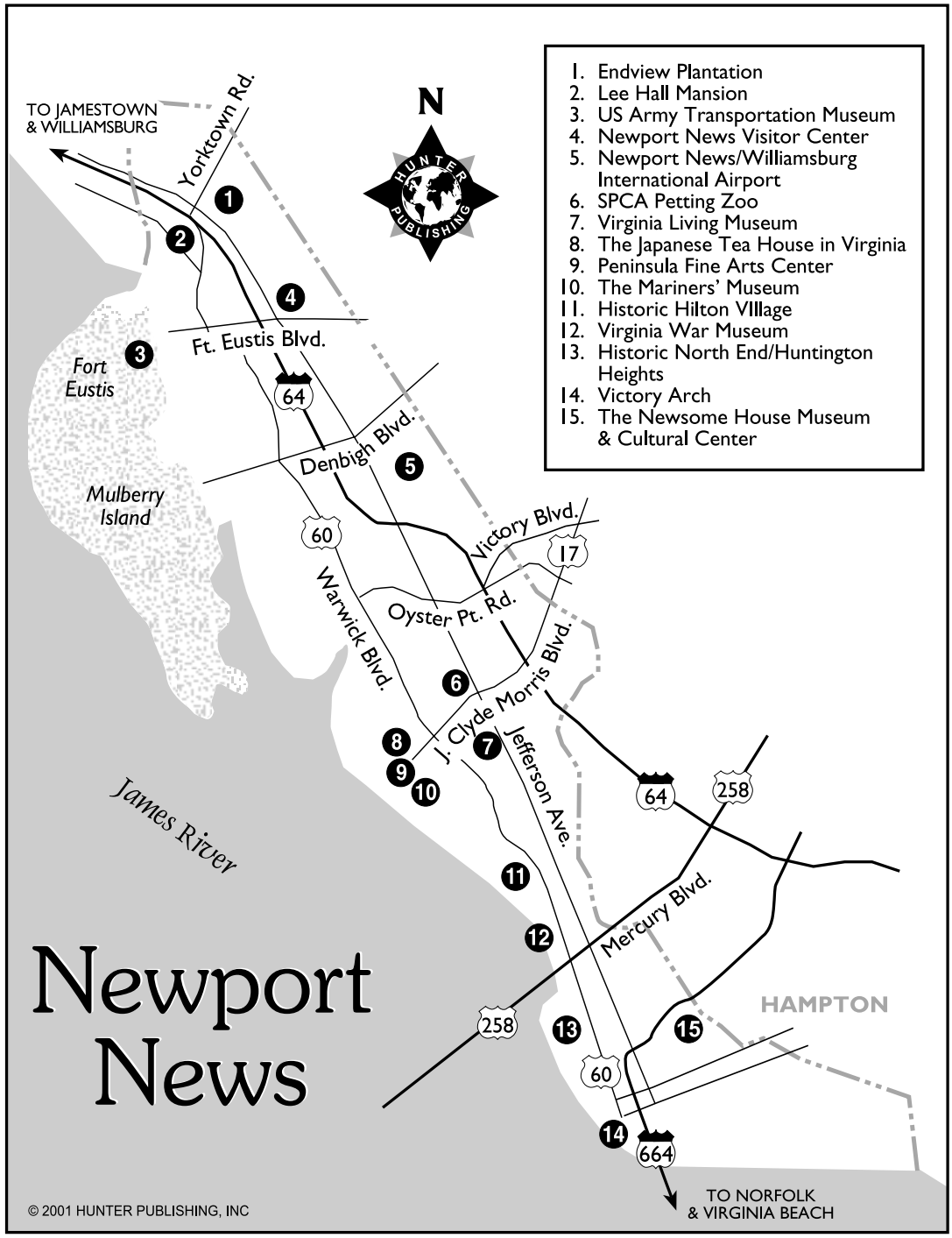
Old port facilities and downtown buildings were torn down to make way for modern stores and offices. Pier B was completed in the autumn of 1967 and replaced the outmoded port facilities. A new City Hall was built at the south end of Washington Street and completed in 1972. It became the core of a new civic center which embraced the nearby courthouse, the Federal Building, and the new Victory Arch.

Today, the Peninsula is still one of the fastest-growing areas in the nation. Tourism has became a large part of the city's economy and Newport News has much to offer the vacationer. The city abounds with things to see and do, from its several fascinating museums to more than 25 pleasant city parks, and miles of walking trails.



## *Sights*

**The Mariners' Museum** is an internationally known museum which introduces visitors to the lore of the sea and man's maritime adventures over the past 3,000 years. Galleries include the Defending the Seas, Age of Exploration, the Chesapeake Bay, the Crabtree Collection of Miniature Ships and the Great Hall of Steam. Together, they contain the most extensive international collections of objects gathered together by mariners, including paintings, maps, scrimshaw, coins, models, unique watercraft, hand-crafted figureheads, audio-visual displays, a working steam engine and more. The museum's Research Library and its more than 70,000 volumes and 350,000 photographs is open to the public. The museum is open daily, except for Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. The Research Library is open Monday through Saturday. There is also a gift shop. The museum is located in a 550-acre park, which also features the five-mile Noland Walking Trail, at the junction of Warwick and J. Clyde Morris boulevards, about three miles from Interstate 64, Exit 258-A. For more information, ☎ 757-596-2222 or visit www.mariner.org.




**Peninsula Fine Arts Center**, located in The Mariners' Museum park, brings the finest of the art world to the Peninsula: collections from Virginia and other institutions, combined with national traveling exhibitions and works by exceptional regional artists, supplement the center's permanent collections of paintings, sculpture, prints and drawings, ceramics and photography. The center is open daily and closed for major holidays. Admission is free.

The center is at the junction of Warwick and J. Clyde Morris boulevards, about three miles from Interstate 64, Exit 258-A. ☎ 757-596-8175 or visit www.pfac-va.org.

**Virginia War Museum**. Here the fascinating saga of military history unfolds. This museum has more than 50,000 artifacts, including uniforms, posters, documents, photographs, insignia, vehicles, weapons, accouterments, an 1883 brass Gatling Gun, a World Way I Renault Tank, a Civil War blockade runner's uniform, and a wall from the infamous Dachau Concentration Camp. It brings to life and documents America's involvement in wars dating from 1775 to the present. The museum also features a gift shop, educational programs, a military history film collection, and a research library and archive which is available for public use by appointment.

The museum is open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m., and from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. on Sundays; closed major holidays. The museum is at 9285 Warwick Boulevard in Huntington Park, near the James River Bridge. ☎ 757-247-8523.

**Lee Hall Mansion**. This circa-1858 Italianate mansion was the headquarters for two Confederate generals – John Bankhead Magruder and Joseph E. Johnston – during the initial stages of the 1862 Peninsula Campaign. It is one of the few 19th century plantation houses remaining on the Peninsula. Recently restored to is former glory, the home features six period rooms and an exhibit on the Peninsula Campaign. Several times a year, archeologists descend on the property for excavations. It is located at 163 Yorktown Road and is open Monday through Saturday. It is closed on major holidays. ☎ 757-888-3371 or visit www.leehall.org.

**Endview Plantation**. This 1760 farmhouse has been used in three wars: As a stopover for the Virginia Militia during the Revolution, as a training ground during the War of 1812, and as a Confederate captain's home and a hospital for both sides during the Civil War. Visitors can see archeological and restoration projects in progress. Located at 362 Yorktown Road. Open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., and Sunday from 1 until 5 p.m. Closed major holidays. ☎ 757-887-1862.

**Virginia Living Museum**, 524 J. Clyde Morris Boulevard, is a combination wildlife park, science museum, aquarium, botanical preserve, and planetarium. The numerous indoor and outdoor exhibits provide carefully protected natural environments for a variety of plant and animal life designed to let you explore bird, marine, mammal, reptile and insect life native to America's Eastern Shore and Coastal Plain.

Museum hours Memorial Day through Labor Day are Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The rest of the year, it is open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m., and Sunday from noon until 5 p.m. Indoor exhibits are also open Thursdays from 7 to 9 p.m. ☎ 757-595-1900 or visit www.valivingmuseum.org.

**Peninsula SPCA/Petting Zoo**, across the street from the Virginian Living Museum, is well known for its puppies and kittens, but the facility also features a petting zoo with many species of exotic wildlife, farm animals, and birds. Located at 523 J. Clyde Morris Boulevard. Open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., and Sunday from noon until 5 p.m. For more information, ☎ 757-595-1399.

**The US Army Transportation Museum** at Fort Eustis is the only place on the East Coast where you can find a truck that walks and a ship that flies. Visitors explore the world of motion, from the mighty steam locomotives of yesteryear to the world's only captive flying saucer. Exhibits include the first helicopter to land at the South Pole, a vertical landing and take-off aircraft, the "Flying Crane," the world's largest helicopter, and more than 200 years of army transportation history. Outdoor displays include many of the actual vehicles in use by the army of yesterday, today, and tomorrow. The museum is open Tuesday through Sunday from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m., and is closed all major holidays. It is at Building 300, Washington Boulevard, Fort Eustis, VA 23604. ☎ 757-878-1115 or visit www.army.eustis.mil.

**The Japanese Teahouse in Virginia** is recognized as one of the most authentic tea houses outside of Japan. The house was a gift to the people of Virginia from the Asahi Shimbum Newspaper and Nomura Securities and was formerly one of the most successful exhibits ever at the National Gallery of Art in Washington DC. The tea house is on the campus of Christopher Newport University. Tours are arranged by appointment only. ☎ 757-594-7039.

**The Newsome House Museum and Cultural Center** is an historic home built in 1899 and the one-time home of Joseph Thomas Newsome, a prominent black attorney. Newsome was the editor of a black newspaper, co-founder of the Newport News Church, and he formed the Colored Voters League of Warwick County. Today, the restored Victorian home is a landmark which continues Newsome's devotion to the expression of black culture and history through changing exhibits by African-American artists. The Center is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., and is located at 2803 Oak Avenue. ☎ 757-247-2360.

**Victory Arch**. Since Hampton Roads was the World War II port of embarkation, returning men and women of the armed forces marched through a wooden arch during their homecoming. Today, the stone arch that replaced it serves as a memorial with an eternal flame for all the men and women who have served their country. Located at 25th Street and West Avenue in downtown Newport News.

**Historic Hilton Village** is a neighborhood of English cottage-style homes, the nation's first ever federal housing development. Built from 1918 to 1920 for shipyard workers, it is on the National Registry of His-

toric Places. Many homes are still residences, while those facing Warwick Boulevard now house specialty shops.

**Historic North End-Huntington Heights**, between Huntington Avenue and Warwick Boulevard, is an early 1920s neighborhood listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

## *Entertainment*

**Cozzy's Comedy Club**, 9700 Warwick Boulevard, ☎ 757-595-2800.

**Peninsula Community Theatre**, located in Historic Hilton Village at the corner of Warwick Boulevard and Main Street, hosts concerts, musical, comedies, dramas and children's theatre. The box office number is ☎ 757-595-5728.

**Peninsula Playhouse Dinner Theatre** at Kiln Creek Golf & Country Club features a four-course dinner served by characters in the show. ☎ 800-627-5130 for showtimes and tickets.

**Yoder Barn Theatre**, a restored 1935 dairy barn at 660 Hamilton Drive, hosts shows on local history performed by local residents. ☎ 757-249-4187.

## *Annual Events*

**The Annual Wildlife Arts Festival**, held in January, is a gathering of East Coast artists to celebrate, demonstrate, display and sell works in a variety of media. The event is sponsored by the Virginia Living Museum. For the location and more information, ☎ 757-595-1900.

**The Children's Festival of Friends** is entertaining as well as educational for the entire family. The event is held in early May at Newport News Park. ☎ 757-926-8451.

**Jubilee on the James** is held at Mariner's Museum Park in late May or in June. ☎ 757-926-8451.

**The Annual Fourth of July Party** celebrates Independence Day on the Superblock at 26th Street in Downtown Newport News. All sorts of lively entertainment and a fireworks display. ☎ 757-926-8451.

**The Juried Exhibition**, held at the Peninsula Fine Arts Center beginning the first week in September, is one of the best established juried shows in the state. ☎ 804-596-8175.

**The Annual Fall Festival of Folklife**, more than 25 years in the running, is held in Newport News Park the first weekend in October. It is a weekend of traditional crafts set among the fall foliage in the 8,000-acre

park where more than 200 crafts people display and sell their works, many of them creating right before your eyes. ☎ 757-926-8451.

**Artful Giving and Home for the Holiday**, mid-November through the first week in January, at the Peninsula Fine Arts Center. ☎ 757-596-8175. It's an art show and sale for the holidays.

**The Star of Wonder** is an annual holiday presentation by the Planetarium which explores the many theories behind the famous Star of Bethlehem. The event is held from Thanksgiving through January 1 at the Virginia Living Museum. ☎ 757-595-1900.

**The Annual Celebration in Lights** runs from Thanksgiving through January 1. The celebration is a spectacular two-mile tableau of seasonal scenes created with freestanding displays of more than two million lights and enhanced by a rainbow of floodlights. ☎ 757-926-8451.

**Annual Holiday Open House**, the Newsome House Museum & Cultural Center, the month of December. ☎ 757-247-2360.

# *Recreation*

## *Fishing*

The **James River Fishing Pier**, ☎ 757-247-0364, offers sportsmen and women the chance to "hook the big one," while the **Bay Charter Service**, ☎ 757-930-8768, offers deep-sea fishing trips for striper, menhaden, flounder, croaker, scup and sea trout, into the Chesapeake Bay and beyond from early May through late summer. Bank fishing is also available on the many backwater creeks and streams that abound in and around Newport News.

## *Parks & Preserves*

**Huntington Park** overlooks the James River and features Fort Fun, a contemporary playground for the kids, a sandy beach area, a public boat ramp, a volleyball area, rose garden, a snack bar and covered grills. Located at the James River Bridge on Warwick Boulevard. There is a fishing pier with a seafood restaurant for waterfront dining. ☎ 757-886-7912.

**Newport News Park**, 13564 Jefferson Avenue, is an 8,100-acre woodland park which offers a wide variety of family fun and outdoor recreation. There are two 18-hole golf courses and a disc-golf course. There are also paddleboating, canoeing, and fishing on a reservoir, archery, picnicking at the sheltered picnic areas, 30 miles of hiking and bike trails, wildlife and bird study programs, a playground and the Nature and Historical Interpretive Center. ☎ 757-888-3333.

**Newport News Golf Club** at Newport News Park is a magnificent 36-hole golfing complex encompassing two wooded championship courses at

the edge of the Newport News Park. The 6,757-yard Cardinal Course is designed for golfers at all levels of skill, while the 7,000-yard Deer Run Course will test even the most experienced golfer. You will see wildlife of all sorts, shapes and sizes here and the course is listed on the National Audubon Society Register. After a round of golf, you can relax at the Deer Run Club House and Restaurant. ☎ 757-886-7925.

**Harwood's Mill**, located in the southeast end of Newport News in York County, is a 265-acre reservoir with boat rentals for fishing and fun. There is a network of hiking trails and bike trails, and a picnic shelter. ☎ 757-886-7912.

**Newport News Park** offers 188 sites, including those with water and electric hookups. Facilities include flush toilets, hot showers, sewage disposal, a pavilion, a laundry and public telephones. Recreational activities include boating, canoeing, hiking, golf, lake fishing, horseback riding, field sports, and a variety of planned group activities on weekends. Open year-round. For more information and reservations, ☎ 757-888-3333.

## *Shopping*

At the Patrick Henry Mall you can find all sorts of major retail stores and eateries, while Hilton Village has a variety of antique and specialty shops.

The museum shops at The Mariners' Museum, Peninsula Fine Arts Center, US Army Transportation Museum, Virginian Living Museum and Virginia War Museum offer one-of-a-kind shopping, from fine art prints to military memorabilia.

For more information, contact the Newport News Tourism Development Office, 2400 Washington Ave., Newport News, VA 23606-2998, ☎ 757-926-3561 or ☎ 888-493-7386; or the Newport News Visitor Center at Newport News Park, Exit 250-B on Interstate 64, ☎ 757-886-7777 or 888-493-7386.

## *Dining*

Newport News offers a wide variety of dining options with dozens of restaurants and cafés with varied ethnic and American menus.

**Aria Fifty One Café**, ☎ 757-873-2200, 605 Pilot House Drive, serves "seasonal American regional" cuisine, with lots of fresh seafood and steaks. Open for lunch and dinner, closed Sunday.

**The Atlanta Beergarten**, 12644 Jefferson Ave., ☎ 757-988-1669, is a microbrewery and sports bar serving up German and American food.

**Boxwood Inn**, 10 Elmhurst Street, ☎ 757-888-8854, offers lunch and dinner.

**The Crab Shack**, ☎ 757-245-2722, is located on a pier jutting out into the James River at the James River Bridge, offering seafood, spectacular water views, and outdoor deck dining (weather permitting).

**Das Waldcafe**, 12529 Warwick Blvd., ☎ 757-930-1781, has a German menu in a family setting.

**Danny's Deli Restaurant**, 10838 Warwick Blvd., ☎ 757-595-0252, serves up free dill pickles when you sit down to eat. This alcohol-free, family-oriented place is a favorite among locals. Serves lunch and dinner until 7 p.m.

**Herman's Harbor House**, 663 Deep Creek Road, ☎ 757-930-1000, overlooks the marina and the James River. Fresh fish daily. There's a verandah and a Sunday brunch.

**Kappo Nara**, 550 Oyster Point Road, ☎ 757-249-5395, has a full Japanese menu and sushi bar.

**Manhattan's N.Y. Deli**, 601 Thimble Shoals Blvd., ☎ 757-873-0555, offers New York-style deli sandwiches and daily hot specials served in a casual atmosphere.

**Mitty's Ristorante**, in the Omni Hotel, 1000 Omni Blvd., ☎ 757-873-6664, offers fresh-baked Focaccia bread, views of the open kitchen, and a wood-burning pizza oven.

**The Red Maple Inn**, 202 Harpersville Road, ☎ 757-596-6333, is located in a converted two-story home and has a contemporary regional menu.

**Sushi Yama Japanese Restaurant**, 11745-2 Jefferson Ave., ☎ 757-596-1150, has a tatami room for traditional seating.

**Wipeout Eddy's Rawbar & Grille**, 11712 Jefferson Ave., ☎ 757-873-3339, has a casual, nautical theme, and weekly entertainment.

## *Accommodations*

Most establishments offer both handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms, but be sure to ask when making reservations.

### *Hotels & Motels*

**Comfort Inn**, 12330 Jefferson Ave., ☎ 757-249-0200, has 124 guest rooms and a Colonial decor. Semi-handicapped accessible; non-smoking rooms available. Pets are allowed, and there is a free continental breakfast, as well as a pool and fitness room. $$

**Days Inn Newport News**, 14747 Warwick Boulevard, ☎ 757-874-0201. The hotel has 117 guest rooms including non-smoking rooms, cable TV, a swimming pool and a playground. Free coffee is provided in the guest

rooms and some rooms have kitchens. There's a coin laundry, valet service, and a picnic area. $$

**Days Inn Oyster Point**, 11829 Fishing Point Drive, ☎ 757-873-6700 or 800-873-2369, has 125 guest rooms, a fitness center, an outdoor pool, and is handicapped-accessible. Visit www.days-inn-oyster-pt.com. $$

**Econo Lodge-Oyster Point**, 11845 Jefferson Ave., ☎ 757-599-3237, has 110 guest rooms, eight with whirlpool, non-smoking and handicapped-accessible rooms, cable TV and a coin laundry. Efficiencies also available. $

**Hampton Inn & Suites**, 12251 Jefferson Ave., ☎ 757-249-0001, has 120 guest rooms, 30 of them suites, some with gas-lit fireplaces and kitchens. Handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms are available. There is also a pool and a fitness center, and coffee-makers in each room. $$

**Holiday Inn-Express**, 16890 Warwick Blvd., ☎ 757-887-3300, has 57 guest rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. Free breakfast served and coffee-makers in the rooms. $$

**Host Inn**, 985 J. Clyde Morris Boulevard, ☎ 757-599-3303, has 50 guest rooms, a swimming pool, cable TV, and offers guests free coffee in the lobby. $

**The Mulberry Inn**, 16890 Warwick Blvd., ☎ 800-223-0404 or 757-887-3000, has 100 guest rooms, some of them efficiencies, complimentary continental breakfast, coffee-makers in the rooms, outdoor pool, fitness center, and guest laundry. Non-smoking rooms available. $$

**Omni Newport News Hotel**, 1000 Omni Boulevard, ☎ 757-873-6664, has 183 guest rooms including non-smoking and handicapped-accessible rooms, a heated indoor pool, cable TV, and an exercise room. Room service and valet service available. $$-$$$

**Ramada Inn and Conference Center** is at 950 J. Clyde Morris Boulevard, ☎ 757-599-4460. The hotel has 214 guest rooms including non-smoking and handicapped-accessible rooms, a swimming pool, cable TV, a bar and a café. Services include entertainment and dancing, meeting rooms, and valet service. $$

### *Bed & Breakfasts / Inns*

**The Boxwood Inn**, 10 Elmhurst Street in Lee Hall Village, ☎ 757-888-8854, has four suites and a restaurant. www.boxwood-inn.com $$-$$$

## *Information*

**The Newport News Tourism Development Office**, 2400 Washington Ave., Newport News, VA 23606-2998, ☎ 757-926-3561, will send information to potential visitors, and assist with travel plans to the Peninsula.

Group tour and military reunion itineraries and assistance are also available. The toll-free telephone number is ☎ 888-493-7386.

**The Newport News Visitor Center** is at Newport News Park, Exit 250-B on Interstate 64. Maps, along with lots of free local and state information, are available at the center. ☎ 757-886-7777 or 888-493-7386.

**AAA of Tidewater Virginia** is at 305 Martha Lee Drive, Hampton. Take Exit 263-A off Interstate 64. ☎ 757-826-1061 or 800-258-1730.

## *Transportation*

**RSVP Tours**, **Inc.** offers individually guided tours of all the major attractions in the Newport News Area in step-on motor coaches; expert commentary is provided. ☎ 757-872-8476.

**The Newport News/Williamsburg International Airport** serves Southeastern Virginia with several major airlines. The airport is 15 minutes from downtown Newport News, and 25 minutes from Williamsburg. Ground transportation is available through a variety of taxi and rental car companies. ☎ 757-877-0221.

The city is served by **Amtrak**, ☎ 800-872-7245, with a station at 9304 Warwick Boulevard, and **Greyhound Lines Inc.**, ☎ 800-231-2222, with a terminal at Fort Eustis.

# Norfolk

If you ask a native of Norfolk what the city means to him, he might cock his head to one side, think for a moment, and then tell you it's the toots of the tugboats pushing the barges; a stiff breeze filling the mainsail; the crack of ball against bat at the river-front baseball stadium; the sound of music at Town Point Park; and the cheers of the waiting crowd as another Navy ship comes home.

The people who live in and around this great city-by-the-sea are proud of their hometown and the magnificent panorama that is Hampton Roads harbor.

Norfolk began as the most prosperous town in Colonial Virginia and has grown to be one of the leading trading ports on the East Coast. Visitors today find Norfolk a bustling financial, cultural and historical center with an international airport and one of the nation's busiest container-shipping ports.

Norfolk is the location of two of the nation's most important naval and air bases, and is the home port of the United States Atlantic Fleet. Its strategic mid-Atlantic location also makes it the perfect home base for enjoying

nearby ocean beaches, amusement parks and rich historical sites like Jamestown, Yorktown and Colonial Williamsburg.

Just across the Elizabeth River, Portsmouth rose to prominence as the nation's shipyard, while Suffolk grew from a Colonial township bordering the Great Dismal Swamp into a sprawling, rural Eden famed for its forests and peanut crops.

Norfolk offers visitors a surprise package of fun, history and cultural attractions. You can take a harbor cruise for a close-up view of a working and recreational waterfront, from industrial shipyards and busy tug boats to sleek yachts. You can sail the harbor on a tall-masted ship, enjoy a relaxing dinner cruise, or tour the sights on a replica of a Mississippi riverboat. And you can see the Navy's powerful fleet with a tour of the Naval Station Norfolk, the world's largest. After all that, you can relax and unwind on more than seven miles of sandy beach right on the Chesapeake Bay.

Norfolk has several fine museums and art galleries, including the world-renowned Chrysler Museum of Art, and NAUTICUS, the National Maritime Center.

Norfolk also boasts its own a symphony orchestra and the Virginia Opera, which is the official opera company of the Commonwealth. Venues for various events and performances include the massive Norfolk Scope arena, the fabulous Harrison Opera House, and the restored Wells Theater. The city is also the home of Old Dominion and Norfolk State universities, Eastern Virginia Medical School and Virginia Wesleyan College.



## *History*

Greater Norfolk's dramatic history began in 1607 when three ships, the ***Discovery***, the ***Susan Constant*** and the ***Godspeed*** landed on the southern shores of the Chesapeake Bay at Cape Henry. The ships, under the command of Captain John Smith, took on fresh water and food, then sailed onward up the James River and founded the first permanent English settlement in America, Jamestown.

Norfolk itself was founded in 1682 on land bought with 10,000 pounds of tobacco. In the early days it was a trade center where tar, hides, and lumber were brought in from North Carolina and distributed to all points of the compass. Soon the great natural harbor expanded its activities into the shipbuilding and iron working industries. This led to vigorous trade between the city and Great Britain, as well as the West Indies. By 1775, Norfolk was called the colony's most prosperous city.

Norfolk has seen many setbacks during its long and turbulent past. War ravaged the area from its very beginnings. During the **Revolutionary War**, Lord Dunsmore's bombardment of the city in 1776 led to a fire that virtually destroyed it.

The next hundred years brought a cycle of rebuilding and devastation to the city. The **Civil War** saw further destruction when President Lincoln, with Secretary Stanton, arrived at Fort Monroe – located just across the harbor – on May 6, 1862.

Lincoln came to **Fort Monroe** ostensibly to take stock of the situation and to talk to his commanding general, George McClellan, in the hopes of spurring him on to Richmond. McClellan, however, was busy in Williamsburg and claimed, "It was impossible to go to the rear." President Lincoln, frustrated and more than a little angry, had no option but to spend his time talking to what few high ranking army and naval officers were available. Then, in a fit of pique, he ordered the capture of the Confederate port of Norfolk – not a very difficult task considering it was, by this time, virtually abandoned following General Johnston's retreat toward Richmond. Norfolk was duly taken and President Lincoln, somewhat mollified, returned to Washington.

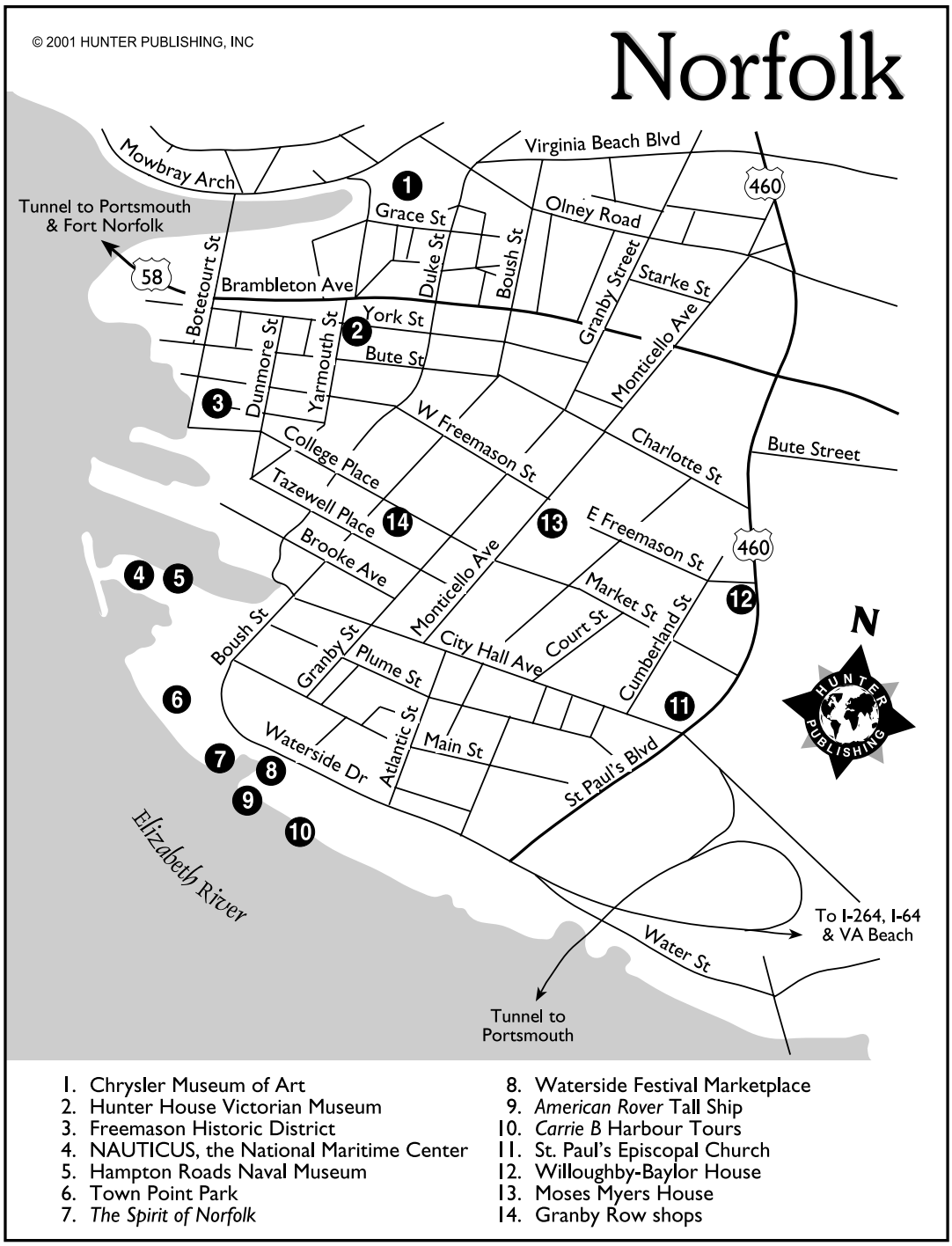
The 20th century brought great new advances and prosperity to Norfolk. Trade and industry boomed. The great Norfolk Naval Base, now known as Naval Station Norfolk, was built. And, during the Second World War, the city's population doubled. In 1976, Norfolk's first major waterfront renovation project opened on the banks of the Elizabeth River. The renovation continued on into the 1990s and today the entire waterfront area is an aggregation of upscale attractions, hotels, restaurants and unique shops.

## *Sights*

**Naval Station Norfolk**, together with the **Norfolk Naval Air Station**, at Hampton Boulevard and I-564, is the largest naval installation in the world. The base is home port to the ships and aircraft carriers of the Atlantic Fleet. Guided bus tours of the base, narrated by naval personnel, pass by the Atlantic Fleet training center, awe-inspiring aircraft carriers, swift destroyers and sleek nuclear-powered submarines. Tours are available year-round. ☎ 757-444-7955.

**Waterside Festival Marketplace and Town Point Park** on the Elizabeth River are the center of tourist and festival activity in downtown Norfolk. Visitors can watch the Navy, merchant and pleasure crafts ply one of the busiest ports on the East Coast, shop at Waterside, catch an outdoor concert at the adjacent Town Point Park, or visit nearby NAUTICUS.

Several different boat tours of Hampton Roads harbor leave from Waterside daily. The ***American Rover***, ☎ 757-627-SAIL, gives two and three-hour tours aboard a 149-passenger three-masted topsail schooner modeled after the Chesapeake Bay cargo schooners of old. The ***Carrie B***, ☎ 757-393-4735, is a reproduction Mississippi-style paddlewheeler that gives tours of the Norfolk Naval Base and the nation's oldest drydock. ***The Spirit of Norfolk***, ☎ 757-627-7771, offers elegant lunch and dinner-




dance cruises. **The Elizabeth River Ferry**, ☎ 757-640-6300, provides service between Norfolk and Portsmouth downtowns and is a great, inexpensive way to see the Norfolk Naval Shipyard.

**The Chrysler Museum of Art**, 245 W. Olney Road in Mowbrey Arch, has a collection of historical artifacts, art and memorabilia that spans almost 4,000 years. Visitors can view exhibits that include more than 30,000 pieces. The museum's holdings include a world-renowned Tiffany glass collection, Art Nouveau furniture, pre-Columbian art and collections from Africa, Egypt, Islam, Europe and America. The museum is open year-round, Tuesday through Sunday. ☎ 757-664-6200.

**The Norfolk Botanical Garden**, located on Azalea Garden Road, adjacent to Norfolk International Airport, encompasses some 155 acres of botanical beauty. The garden boasts one of the largest collections of azaleas, rhododendrons, camellias and roses on the East Coast. Visitors can tour the more than 12 miles of garden walks and pathways on foot or by trackless train, take a canal boat tour and enjoy a delightful culinary experience in the Garden Tea House. The Botanical Garden is open daily year-round. ☎ 757-441-5830.

**The Virginia Zoo**, 3500 Granby Street, sits on 53 acres on the Lafayette River. It is home to more than 350 animals, from elephants and rhinos, to reptiles and nocturnal species. Two Siberian tigers are among visitors' favorite residents. ☎ 757-441-2706.

**The Hermitage Foundation Museum**, 7637 North Shore Road, is set in a riverside Tudor-style mansion built by William and Florence Sloane in 1908. The museum features an outstanding collection of Eastern and Western art, by Chinese tomb artifacts from the T'ang Dynasty and relics from Czar Nicholas' private collection – Nicholas was the last Russian czar. The museum is open Monday through Saturday. ☎ 757-423-2052.

**St. Paul's Episcopal Church**, 201 St. Paul's Boulevard, was the only building to survive the burning of Norfolk in 1776. Even so, the church did not go undamaged. A cannonball fired at the city during Lord Dunsmore's bombardment remains lodged in the southern wall. The church's tree-lined cemetery is dotted with 17th- , 18th- and 19th-century tombstones. The church, which features a fine Tiffany stained-glass window, is still in use. The public is welcome to visit the churchyard any time and may visit the interior of the church Tuesday through Friday. ☎ 757-627-4353.

**The Moses Myers House**, 331 Bank Street, is an excellent example of Federal architecture. The house, built in 1792 by one of America's first millionaires, is now dedicated to interpreting the traditions of early Jewish immigrants. Seventy percent of the current collection of furnishings is original to the first generation of Myers and reflects the French influences prevalent during the period. The house is open Tuesday through Saturday. ☎ 757-664-6283.

**The Willoughby-Baylor House**, 601 E. Freemason Street, is a restored townhouse with authentic 18th-century furnishings. The house, built in 1794, is set upon land allocated during an original grant of 1636. The house is open Tuesday through Saturday. ☎ 757-664-6283.

**The Hunter House Victorian Museum**, 240 W. Freemason Street, is located on a cobblestone street in Norfolk's historic Freemason neighborhood. The house, built in 1894, once belonged to Dr. J.W. Hunter, Jr. and today displays the Hunter family's Victorian furnishings. These include a nursery of children's playthings and a collection of early 20th-century

medical equipment. The house is open April through December, Wednesday through Saturday, and on Sunday afternoons. ☎ 757-623-9814.

**The General Douglas MacArthur Memorial**, on City Hall Avenue and Bank Street, is located in the restored former city hall, and is where MacArthur is buried. Eleven galleries contain the memorabilia of his life and military career. There are three other buildings on MacArthur Square: a theater where a film biography is shown, a gift shop and the Library/Archives. The complex is open daily, but closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. ☎ 757-441-2965.

**NAUTICUS**, **The National Maritime Center**, on the downtown waterfront, is a spectacular multi-level entertainment and educational attraction dedicated to maritime technology. Through a series of ingenious interactive exhibits, shows and theaters, you can try your hand at such tasks as landing a jet fighter on the deck of an aircraft carrier, loading container cargo, navigating an ocean-going vessel and participating in a very realistic naval combat situation aboard an Aegis class destroyer. NAUTICUS also features films such as *The Living Sea*, shown in stunning 70mm format, and the completely redesigned Hampton Roads Naval Museum. ☎ 800-664-1080.

**The Hampton Roads Naval Museum at NAUTICUS** is officially operated by the US Navy, and highlights the naval battles and events that took place in the Norfolk area, many of which changed US history. From the Battle of Virginia Capes during the American Revolution, through the clash of the first ironclad ships during the Civil War, to World War II and Desert Storm, turning point battles are illustrated and interpreted through detailed model ships, naval artwork, underwater artifacts and traditional exhibits. The museum maintains NAUTICUS hours when the center is open. For more information and a schedule of opening hours, ☎ 757-322-2987.

**The Tugboat Huntington** is a floating museum docked at the downtown waterfront. Built in 1933 by Newport News Shipyard Apprentices, the tugboat helped dock and launch hundreds of aircraft carriers, submarines and passenger liners during its 50-year career. It is restored so visitors can see crew's and captain's quarters, galley, wheelhouse, and a massive power plant. There are photographs, exhibits and a video. The Tug is open daily Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day, closed Mondays the rest of the year. ☎ 757-627-4TUG.

**Fort Norfolk**, on the banks of the Elizabeth River near Ghent, 810 Front Street, is called one of the best-preserved War of 1812 sites in America. It is one of the only surviving forts of the several that George Washington commissioned to be built in 1794. The fort is the site of interesting special events during the year, which usually include military re-enactments and tours of the buildings. For more information or to schedule a visit, ☎ 757-625-1720.

## *Entertainment*

The **Virginia Opera**, the official opera company of the Commonwealth, stages five productions annually in the dazzling **Harrison Opera House**, 160 Virginia Beach Boulevard. The company was called by *NBC Nightly News* "... one of the nation's very best regional companies." It has earned international recognition for the American and world premiers of four major operas: *Mary, Queen of Scotts; Harriet, the Woman Called Moses; A Christmas Carol*; and *Simon Bolivar.* For information, schedules and tickets, ☎ 757-623-1223.

**The Virginia Stage Company** (VSC) is the premier fully professional theater in the region, offering dynamic productions in the historic **Wells Theatre** at 110 E. Tazewell Street. The Company produces six major productions each season in addition to smaller "second stage shows" and children's theater educational activities. Artists from across the country conceive, design and rehearse VSC productions. The Virginia Stage Company presented the world premier of *The Secret Garden* in 1989 that went on to a successful Broadway run, a national tour and won three Tony Awards. For information, schedules and tickets, ☎ 757-627-1234.

**The Virginia Symphony** is the oldest such musical group in the Southeast. This nationally acclaimed symphony offers a classical masterworks series, pop series, family series, Casual Classics and dance series, performing more than 140 concerts each year. Outdoor concerts are scheduled throughout the spring and summer months. Special holiday performances take place in December. For information, schedules and tickets, ☎ 757-623-2310.

**The Norfolk Scope and Chrysler Hall** are the two facilities that comprise Norfolk's cultural and convention center. Scope's domed arena accommodates as many as 11,300 people for concerts, circuses, ice shows, professional ice hockey matches and other entertainment programs. Its exhibition hall houses conventions, trade shows and various special events. Chrysler Hall, a 2,500-seat luxury theater in the Scope Plaza, serves as a forum for symphonies, ballets, Broadway shows and concert artists. For information, schedules and tickets, ☎ 757-664-6464 or 800-736-2000.

**The Hampton Roads Admirals** provide championship-caliber hockey from October to mid-March. Members of the East Coast Hockey League, they enjoy a loyal fan base in Hampton Roads. Since they began playing in 1989, the Admirals have won several league championships. They play at home in the Scope Convention Center. For information, schedules and tickets, ☎ 757-640-1212.

**The Norfolk Tides** is the top farm team for the New York Mets. The Tides provide economical, family-oriented entertainment from May to September in Norfolk's waterfront stadium, Harbor Park. The Tides are

members of the AAA International League. For information, schedules and tickets, ☎ 757-622-2222.

## Daytrip: Smithfield & Isle of Wight County

As you approach Smithfield on Rte. 10, where the highway crosses the Pagan River, keep a sharp lookout for a white iron historical marker. Closer inspection reveals its defiant message, declaring this the "one Southern town that refused to surrender" during the Civil War.

Keep going and a real treat awaits: a Southern town that is nothing but welcoming.

A half-hour drive from the urban centers of Hampton Roads, Smithfield and Isle of Wight County rise upon the bluffs of the James and Pagan rivers. Here, small river towns still welcome fishing boats, as they have for centuries. Inland, farmlands stretch to the horizon, miles-upon-miles of peanuts, corn and soybeans.

Smithfield is the commercial and political center of the county. Arthur Smith IV founded the city in 1750 on the Pagan River, where it formed a natural basin deep enough for ships to moor. Smithfield soon thrived as a trading center. Its prosperous years remain on display amid the fine homes lining **Church Street** or tucked along riverside neighborhoods: Homes decked with scalloped eaves, turrets, stained glass windows, rambling porches and arching windows with views of marshes stretching out to the James.

Downtown Smithfield has recaptured some of that historical atmosphere with old-fashioned street lamps, brick pavers and neatly trimmed storefronts. It's a nice setting for a stroll and Smithfield promotes a self-guided **Historic Walking Tour** as the best way to see and learn about its past.

Out into the countryside, inspiring little surprises await the visitor willing to take an unbidden turn. **Rescue** and **Battery Park** are small communities where boatloads of oysters and fish once passed through the local custom house and wharves. These are pleasant communities – nice to drive through or perhaps take a walk along tree-lined sidewalks. They are not tourist destinations in their own right, however – and that's simply part of their charm.

For a real sense of history, visit **Fort Boykin**. Built in 1623, it witnessed action during the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. Today, it is a park. **St. Luke's Church**, in Benns Church

near the intersection of Routes 10 and 258, is the oldest church of brick foundation in the United States. It was built in 1632.

And finally, south of Smithfield, past farm towns like Foursquare and Bethel Church, stands **Boykins Tavern**. Still being remodeled, this vintage 1762 tavern and inn sums up the spirit of Smithfield and Isle of Wight. A fundraising effort by private citizens raised almost $1 million needed to restore its stately two-tier porch, columns, brickwork, wood floors and furnishings.

It seems the town that "refused to surrender" is equally stubborn about not letting its history, or its charm, slip away.

For more information about visiting Smithfield and Isle of Wight County, contact the **Isle of Wight Tourism Bureau**, PO Box 37, Smithfield, VA 23431, ☎ 800-365-9339. There is a **visitors center** at 130 Main Street in Smithfield, ☎ 757-357-5182, and a **museum** at 103 Main Street in Smithfield, ☎ 757-357-7459.

## *Events*

**The Virginia Waterfront International Arts Festival** is a month-long festival held from late April to early May in locations throughout Hampton Roads, and showcasing world-class art and performances by regional artists and from around the world. Even though it only began in 1997, the festival has gained a national reputation for drawing renowned artists in music, dance and theater. The signature event is a performance by the Virginia International Tatoo. ☎ 757-664-6492 or visit www.vaintlartsfest.com.

**The International Azalea Festival** in late April celebrates Norfolk's role as headquarters of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO) Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic. The festival features a grand parade through downtown Norfolk, a two-day air show at the Norfolk Naval Air Station and the Azalea Queen's coronation amid the beauty of the Norfolk Botanical Garden. ☎ 757-622-2312.

**Art Explosure** is an outdoor arts festival held each Mother's Day weekend at Town Point Park. The judged show features hundreds of artisans and crafters from across the country. ☎ 757-441-2345.

The **Afr'am Festival** draws 100,000 people to downtown Norfolk in late May for a celebration of cultural diversity. African-American art, food and entertainment, sponsored by the Southeastern Virginia Arts Association. ☎ 757-456-1743.

**Harborfest** began in 1976 and has grown steadily in popularity ever since. Today, hundreds of thousands of people attend this annual three-day waterfront celebration held the first weekend in June at the downtown Waterfront and Town Point Park. The celebration features fire-

works, nationally known entertainers, the best in Chesapeake seafood, sailboat races and a visit by tall sailing ships from around the world. ☎ 757-441-2345.

**Town Point Festivals** are held throughout the summer season at Town Point Park. The weekend-long celebrations of food and music include a Jazz & Blues Festival in May, the Bayou Boogaloo in June, Reggae on the River and the Children's Festival in September, and the Virginia Wine Festival in October. ☎ 575-441-2345.

**The Great American Picnic & Independence Day Celebration** takes place each July 4 at Town Point Park. It features old-fashioned games, live music, great food, and fireworks over the Elizabeth River. ☎ 757-441-2345.

**The Virginia is for Lovers Cup Hydroplane Races** bring plenty of race action to Willoughby Bay in mid-July. ☎ 757-664-6620.

**Holidays in the City** is one of Virginia's largest holiday celebrations. Each year, Norfolk decks its downtown skyscrapers with nearly 10 miles of white lights. The glittering profiles of the buildings are visible from many miles away. The six-week celebration, which begins in November, includes the Grand Illumination Parade, the Lighted Boat Parade, the Holly Festival, trolley tours of the bedecked downtown area and decorated ships at the Norfolk Naval Base. ☎ 757-623-1757.

**First Night Norfolk** celebrates the year's beginning at the downtown Norfolk waterfront with a fireworks finale at Town Point Park. The non-alcoholic family event features live music, arts and crafts, a bonfire and Midnight Walk. ☎ 757-441-2345 for a schedule of performances.

## *Shopping*

The new **MacArthur Center** is the showplace of downtown Norfolk's shopping district. The city gambled it all on this downtown gem – and won. Nordstrom's and Dillard's anchor the three-story, 17-acre complex, helping draw thousands of visitors to the city. The 150 shops inside run the gamut, from fine pen dealers to hip West Coast-influenced clothing and music stores. It's proved a shot in the arm for downtown's Granby Street, as well as other malls. **Military Circle Mall** has the major department stores like Leggett, Hecht's and JC Penney. The **Waterside Festival Marketplace** offers a unique shopping experience in a complex on the Elizabeth River, with more than 75 shops and restaurants.

Small shops in the Ghent historic district and scattered throughout the city feature everything from antiques to gifts, and from clothing to kitchenware. Be sure to check out the Waterside Festival Market, the Selden Arcade, Colley Avenue and 21st Street in Ghent.

# Recreation

## Boating & Sailing

The Chesapeake Bay, Elizabeth River and Lafayette River provide ample recreational opportunities for motorboat and sailboat enthusiasts alike. The marina at The Waterside is a popular stop for boating enthusiasts. Charters and sailing lessons are available at **Trident Charters**, 1651 Bayville Street, ☎ 757-588-2022. Boat rentals are available at **C-Tackle Boat Rentals**, 1821 E. Little Creek Road, ☎ 757-587-1003; **Willoughby Bay Marina**, 1651 Bayville Street, ☎ 757-588-2663; and **Ocean View Watersports**, 1000 E. Ocean View Ave., ☎ 757-583-8888.

## Marinas

Boaters and sailors will receive good service at **Bay Point Marina** on Bay Street, ☎ 757-362-8432; **Cobb's Marina** on Dunning Road, ☎ 757-588-5401; the **Little Creek Marina** on Pretty Lake Avenue, ☎ 757-362-3600; **Taylor's Landing** on Shore Drive, ☎ 757-587-8000; **The Waterside Marina** on Waterside Drive, ☎ 757-625-2000; and **The Willoughby Harbor Marina** on Bayville Street, ☎ 757-588-2663.

## Fishing & Crabbing

The Chesapeake Bay, Elizabeth River and Lafayette River also provide great opportunities for fishing and crabbing. Blue crabs, croaker, spot fish, bluefish, sea trout and many other species of fish can be caught from piers, head boats and bay beaches. Fishing piers, charter fishing, and head boats are available at **Harrison Boat House and Pier** on West Ocean Ave., ☎ 757-587-9630; **Ocean View Watersports**, 1000 East Ocean View Ave., ☎ 757-583-8888; **Taylor's Landing** on Shore Drive, ☎ 757-587-3480; and the **Willoughby Bay Marina**, 1651 Bayville Street, ☎ 757-588-2663.

## Golf

Public golf courses include: **Lake Wright Golf Course** on Northampton Road, ☎ 757-459-2255; the **Ocean View Golf Course** on Norfolk Avenue, ☎ 757-480-2094; and the **Stumpy Lake Golf Course** on East Indian River Road at Virginia Beach (owned by Norfolk), ☎ 757-467-6119.

## Swimming

Norfolk's Ocean View beaches on the **Chesapeake Bay** provide miles of sand and gentle surf. There are lifeguards, picnic shelters and fishing piers.

# *Dining*

The Greater Norfolk rea has long been famous for its fresh seafood, including flounder, crab, scallops and oysters, but lately a lively mix of eclectic restaurants have gained in popularity. Dozens of fine restaurants, some with wonderful waterfront views, offer everything from delicate French entrées and spicy ethnic fare to the regional and local specialties. The Ghent neighborhood is the in-place to eat and be seen in Norfolk, but downtown is gaining popularity thanks to the influx of visitors to the MacArthur Center Mall.

**Baker's Crust**, 330 W. 21st Street in Ghent, ☎ 757-625-3600, serves 20 kinds of European breads and eclectic pasta and fish dishes. Finish your evening on the town with an excellent dessert and cappuccino, or stop by the crêpe bar. Serves breakfast, lunch and dinner daily.

**Basil Ristorante**, located in the James Madison Hotel at Granby and Freemason Streets, ☎ 757-622-6682, is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner daily, serving Italian cuisine and seafood.

**Bienville Grill**, 723 W. 21st Street in Ghent, ☎ 757-625-5427, is a touch of New Orleans in historic Ghent for tasty Cajun/Creole fare. The restaurant features premier live jazz on weekends. It is open for lunch Tuesday through Friday, and dinner Tuesday through Sunday.

**The Blue Hippo** at 147 Granby Street in downtown Norfolk, ☎ 757-533-9664, is small but sophisticated, serving up an imaginative menu and nightly specials. It is open for lunch Monday through Friday and dinner Monday through Saturday.

At **Bobbywood**, 7515 Granby Street, ☎ 757-440-7515, the decor is vibrant and so is the food. The oyster stew is a specialty, along with duck, veal and seafood.

**Castaldi's Market & Grill** is in the spectacular new MacArthur Center in downtown Norfolk, ☎ 757-627-8700. Serves a Italian menu for lunch and dinner daily.

**Doumar's** at 20th Street and Monticello Avenue, ☎ 757-627-4163, is an attraction in itself, as the longest-running drive-in in the country. Barbecue, burgers and ice cream.

**Freemason Abby**, 209 West Freemason Street, ☎ 757-622-3966, offers a traditional American menu a very non-traditional setting, a 124-year-old church. Open for lunch and dinner daily.

**Johnny Rocket's**, in the MacArthur Center, ☎ 757-622-7330, serves the traditional diner food – burgers and floats – in a 1950s-style diner. Open for lunch and dinner.

**Kincaid's Fish**, **Chop & Steak House** at 300 Monticello Avenue in MacArthur Center, ☎ 757-622-8000, is an up-scale chain that specializes

in grilled meat and seafood and has an extensive menu. There is a lighter menu for the lounge and a large imported beer selection. Open daily for lunch and dinner.

**La Galleria Ristorante**, 120 College Place, ☎ 757-623-3939, offers a Northern Italian menu with a wood-burning pizza oven and breads and sauces for retail sale. There is an exciting piano lounge and excellent desserts. Open for lunch and dinner.

**Lockhart's Seafood Restaurant**, 8440 Tidewater Drive, ☎ 757-588-0405, is open for dinner Tuesday through Sunday and lunch on Sunday only. The restaurant has a nautical theme, and the specialties of the house include poach or broiled seafood platter and Paris bouillabaisse. They do their own baking, create their own desserts and grow their own herbs and vegetable in season.

**The Max** at 1421 Colley Avenue, ☎ 757-625-0259, features outdoor dining with a view of the busy Ghent district of the city. Specialties include baked brie, fried shrimp and fresh seafood. It is open daily for lunch and dinner.

**The Monastery**, 443 Granby Street, ☎ 757-625-8193, offers a Czech and east European menu, and the specialties of the house include delicious breads, roast duck, Wienerschnitzel and goulash. The establishment features antique mirrors and original works by local artists. Open for lunch and dinner.

**Rainforest Café**, in MacArthur Center, ☎ 757-627-8440, is set up as a rainforest, complete with a misting of rain every 20 minutes, the trumpeting of elephants, and the calls of exotic birds. Open for lunch and dinner.

**Rom Thai**, 7512 Granby Street, ☎ 757-480-7900, serves great Thai food. Vegetarians will find plenty of choices. It is open for lunch Monday through Friday, and dinner nightly.

**The Ships Cabin Seafood Restaurant**, 4110 E. Ocean View, ☎ 757-362-4659, offers a view and the fruits of the Chesapeake Bay with crab a common ingredient. The menu changes regularly, but salmon, tuna, oysters and mahi mahi are usually featured. Extensive wine list and a decor that reminds one of being below deck. Dinner only.

**Todd Jurich's Bistro**, 210 W. York Street, ☎ 757-622-3210, serves such adventurous dishes as rabbit confit with blackberries, along with light and healthy fare. There's an extensive wine list. Open for lunch Monday through Friday and dinner nightly.

**219**, appropriately located at 219 Granby Street, ☎ 757-627-2896, serves lunch and dinner. The food at the atmosphere are eclectic and the large windows look out onto the busy street.

**Uncle Louie's Restaurant Bar & Grill**, 132 E. Little Creek Road, ☎ 757-480-1225, is open daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner. There is a full-service deli up front, and a sophisticated art-deco restaurant in the rear.

**Wild Monkey**, 1603 Colley Avenue, ☎ 757-627-6462, is a fun eatery in Norfolk's historic Ghent district where the no-frills menu is written on the walls. It is open for lunch and dinner Monday through Saturday, and Sunday brunch.

## *Accommodations*

Most establishments offer both handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms, but be sure to ask when making reservations.

### *Hotels & Motels*

**Comfort Inn Airport**, 6360 Newtown Road, ☎ 757-461-1081, has 135 rooms, free breakfast, a pool and non-smoking rooms available. $$

**Comfort Inn-Naval Base**, 8051 Hampton Boulevard, ☎ 757-451-0000 or 800-228-5160, has 120 rooms, including include handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. There is a swimming pool, free continental breakfast and free video games in the rooms. $$

**Doubletree Club Hotel**, 870 N. Military Highway in Military Circle Shopping Center, ☎ 757-461-9192 or 800-933-9600, has 208 rooms and is near the airport. There are handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms, a full-service restaurant, room service, a bar, a café, valet service, a pool, meeting rooms and airport transportation. Children under 16 stay free and eat free with adult entrées. $$-$$$

**Econo Lodge-West Ocean View Beach**, 9601 4th View Street, ☎ 757-480-9611, is a small motel close to the Chesapeake Bay with 70 rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. There is a fishing pier and free continental breakfast. $$

Hampton Inn-Naval Base, 8501 Hampton Blvd., ☎ 757-583-2621 or 800-426-7866, has 119 rooms, 28 of them efficiencies, and non-smoking rooms available. There is a heated indoor pool. $$

**Hawthorne Inn & Suites**, 245 Granby Street, ☎ 757-623-6200 or toll-free 877-623-6200, is a new facility adjacent to the MacArthur Center with European boutique-style accommodation. There are 58 studio and two-room suites, all with microwave, refrigerator, coffee-makers, VCR and CD players, full-size iron and ironing board. There are movie rentals, a business center, fitness room, three adjacent restaurants, and a martini bar in the lobby. Full breakfast buffet in included, and non-smoking and handicapped-accessible suites are available. $$$

**Holiday Sands**, 1330 E. Ocean View Avenue, ☎ 757-583-2621 or 525-5156, is on the beach of the Chesapeake Bay. There are 96 rooms, with handicapped-accessible and non-smoking available. Efficiencies and two-room apartments also offered. There is a swimming pool, fitness room and continental breakfast. $$

**James Madison Hotel**, Granby and Freemason Streets, ☎ 757-622-6682, has 124 rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. There is a full-service restaurant and health club privileges. $$-$$$

**Marriott Waterside Hotel**, 235 E. Main Street, ☎ 757-627-4200 or 800-228-9290, is a luxury hotel with 405 rooms. There are handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms, garage parking, a full-service restaurant, room service, a bar, a café, coffee in the rooms, valet service, an indoor pool with poolside service, entertainment, meeting rooms, an exercise room, a gift shop, airport transportation and continental breakfast. Small pets are allowed in the rooms, with a cleaning fee charged. $$$

**Norfolk Airport Hilton**, 1500 N. Military Highway, ☎ 757-466-8000 or 800-916-2221, is a large hotel with 249 rooms and striking modern architecture. There are handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms, two restaurants, room service, gift shop, beauty salon, a bar, a café, coffeemakers in the rooms, valet service, a pool with poolside service, two tennis courts, entertainment and dancing, meeting rooms, an exercise room, sauna and airport transportation. $$-$$$

**Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel**, 777 Waterside Drive, ☎ 757-622-6664 or 800-325-3535, is a large, luxury hotel on the Norfolk waterfront with 446 guest rooms, some with river views. There are handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms, garage parking, a full-service restaurant, room service, a bar, a café, valet service, outdoor swimming pool, entertainment and dancing, meeting rooms and a gift shop. $$-$$$

**Quality Inn Lake Wright**, 6280 Northampton Boulevard, ☎ 757-461-6251 or ☎ 800-228-5157, has 204 guest rooms. There are handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms, a full-service restaurant, free coffee in the rooms, room service, a bar, a café, a pool, meeting rooms, valet service and free airport transportation. Other facilities include a beauty shop, tennis courts and the adjacent Lake Write Golf Course, which is operated by the city of Norfolk. $$

## *Bed & Breakfasts / Inns*

**The Page House Inn**, 323 Fairfax Ave., ☎ 757-623-9442 or toll-free 800-599-7659, is a bed and breakfast in a Georgian Revival mansion in the historic Ghent district of the city. Four large rooms and three suites, some with whirlpools, all non-smoking. Gourmet breakfast served. Located near the Chrysler Museum of Art. Also offers Boat and Breakfast aboard a 43-foot yacht on the Norfolk-Portsmouth waterfront. $$$

## *Transportation*

**The Norfolk International Airport** is seven miles from downtown Norfolk. The airport is served by several major and several regional carriers. Call individual carriers for information. Ground transportation is available through a variety of taxi and rental car companies.

**Hampton Roads Transit** (HRT) offers public transportation by bus and by ferry, as well as sightseeing tours by bus and trolley of downtown Norfolk, Norfolk Naval Base, Olde Towne Portsmouth and Oceana Naval Air Station. Tours depart from Norfolk's Waterside, Portsmouth Visitors Center, the Virginia Beach Oceanfront and the Naval Base. Tours of the world's largest Naval installation have an official Navy guide on board. Schedules are available at visitors centers, by calling ☎ 757-222-6100 or visiting www.hrttransit.org.

**Gray Line Tours**, ☎ 757-853-6480. Norfolk is the hub for tours of the city's historic districts and museums, and for day trips to nearby cities, Colonial Williamsburg and Busch Gardens.

The area is served by Newport News-based **Amtrak**, ☎ 800-872-7245, with service to major cities on the East Coast, and by **Greyhound Lines Inc.**, ☎ 800-231-2222, with a terminal at 701 Monticello Ave.

Norfolk is connected to Interstate 95 at Richmond via Interstate 64, thus providing a link with Florida and the south. It connects to the Eastern Shore via Route 13 and the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel. Norfolk has the only permanent customs facility between Washington DC and Atlanta, Georgia.

- ❖ *The Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway officially begins in the Norfolk Harbor.*

## *Information*

**The Norfolk Convention and Visitors Bureau** is at 232 E. Main Street, Norfolk VA 23510, ☎ 757-664-6620 or toll-free 800-368-3097.

**The Norfolk Visitor Information Center** is on 4th View Street in Ocean View, off Interstate 64, Exit 237, ☎ 757-441-1852 or 800-368-3097.

# Portsmouth

Portsmouth is a historic seaport town on the Elizabeth River, the world's deepest natural harbor. The city is some 29 square miles in size and is located within the Norfolk-Virginia Beach Metropolitan Area.

Portsmouth is bordered by five neighboring cities that comprise a region referred to as **Southside Hampton Roads**.

Whether on land or on the water, cultural and recreational opportunities abound in and around Portsmouth. The area boasts several museums, including the Children's Museum of Virginia, and an acoustically perfect performing arts theater. Opportunities for fishing, swimming, boating and sailing can be found on the Atlantic Ocean, Chesapeake Bay, and the multitude of rivers, lakes and canals that make the area an outdoor paradise.

Public recreational facilities in Portsmouth include two city parks, 54 neighborhood parks, 41 tennis courts and four golf courses. And Portsmouth is only a short drive away from such popular attractions as Colonial Williamsburg, Yorktown, the Jamestown Settlement and Busch Gardens.

## *History*

Once again it was the erstwhile Captain John Smith who first surveyed the Portsmouth area during his epic voyage of 1608. In 1620, Englishman John Wood petitioned King James for a land grant upon which to build a shipbuilding site, and the site was patented on June 15, 1659, by William Carver. Carver, a patriot in Bacon's Rebellion, was hanged for treason in 1676.

Portsmouth itself was established on February 27, 1752 by an act of the General Assembly, and named for Portsmouth, England, by its founder Colonel William Crawford. The Gosport shipyard, adjoining Portsmouth, was established on November 1, 1767 by Andrew Sprowle.

The Revolutionary War saw Lord Dunsmore, the last Royal Governor of Virginia, driven from Williamsburg into refuge with Sprowle in Gosport. They were finally driven from the harbor in 1776 when Portsmouth was occupied by the 4th Virginia Regiment and Fort Nelson was built at Hospital Point.

In 1779, an English fleet under the command of Sir George Collier invaded Portsmouth, captured Fort Nelson and burned some 137 vessels as well as the Gosport Shipyard. By 1780, the city had been fortified and garrisoned by General Leslie with 3,000 English soldiers and 60 ships.

General Lord Cornwallis assumed command of the troops in Portsmouth and in August, 1781 evacuated the city for Yorktown where he surrendered on October 19, thus bringing the war to an end.

Unfortunately, war came again to Portsmouth when the city and Navy Yard were attacked by the British under Admiral Sir John Warren during the War of 1812, and again by Union forces in 1862 during the Civil War. Confederate forces burned Portsmouth and the Navy Yard when they

abandoned it to Federal forces on May 10,1862, thus beginning eight years of Union occupation.

With the end of the Civil War, Portsmouth's economy slowly began to get back on its feet. By the beginning of the First World War in 1914 the Navy Yard was undergoing expansion; by the end of the war three new dry docks and 24 ships were built.

By 1940, the Naval Shipyard had doubled in size and peak employment of 42,000 had been reached. During the war years the yards produced some 101 new ships. The end of the Cold War and military downsizing have reduced employment at the shipyard and sent Portsmouth leaders on a mission to redefine the city.

Today, Portsmouth is a bustling port city with a population of about 100,000. The city's waterfront along the Elizabeth River hosts festivals and concerts from April through October. A new ferry terminal at High Street Landing makes it even easier to get to Norfolk's downtown waterfront, just a few minutes away. A major hotel and conference center graces the waterfront and High Street is an antiquing mecca.

The area is steeped in more than 300 years of history. Portsmouth itself has five historic districts with a rich diversity of architectural styles, and an Olde Towne that resembles the city's English namesake. The harbor, one of the oldest working facilities of its kind in the country, is a place where you can spend hours watching the ships come and go, take a relaxing harbor cruise, or watch the sunset.



## *Sights*

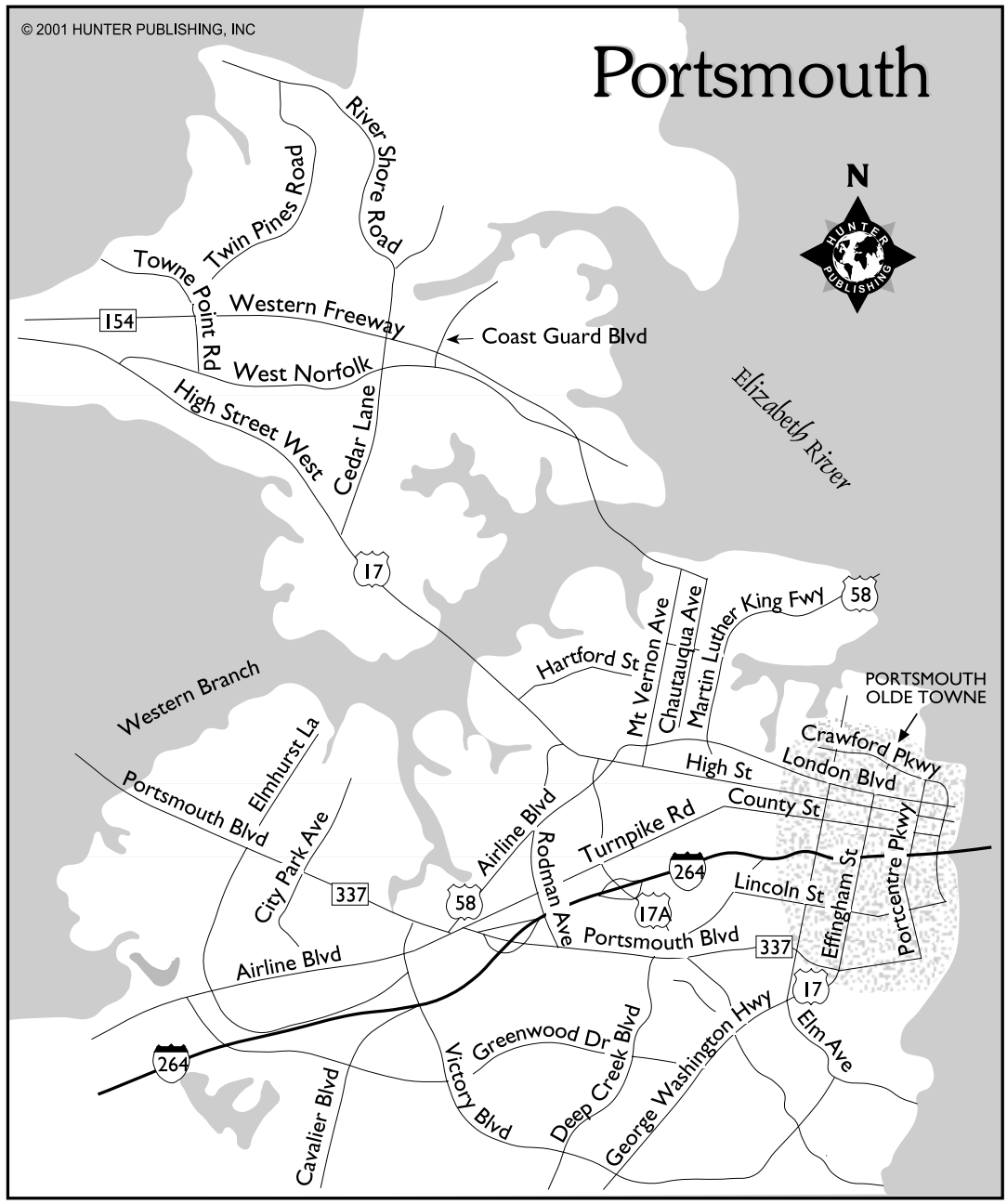
**Portsmouth City Museums.** You can buy a Key Pass valid for two days of touring four of Olde Towne Portsmouth's museums. All are open 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday and 1-5 p.m. on Sunday. ☎ 757-393-8393.

**The Courthouse Galleries**, in the 1846 Courthouse at Court and High Streets, features the works of international and regional artists.

**The Children's Museum of Virginia**, 221 High Street, has 80 interactive exhibits including a Rock Climb, Bubble Room, Art Moves, planetarium and other galleries. The second floor houses the magnificent Lancaster train exhibit, and more than two dozen new displays.

**The Lightship Museum**, at the foot of London Boulevard, is an authentic restored 1915 light ship and National Historic Landmark. See how the men of the Lightship Service lived during their many months at sea on this lightship-turned-museum.

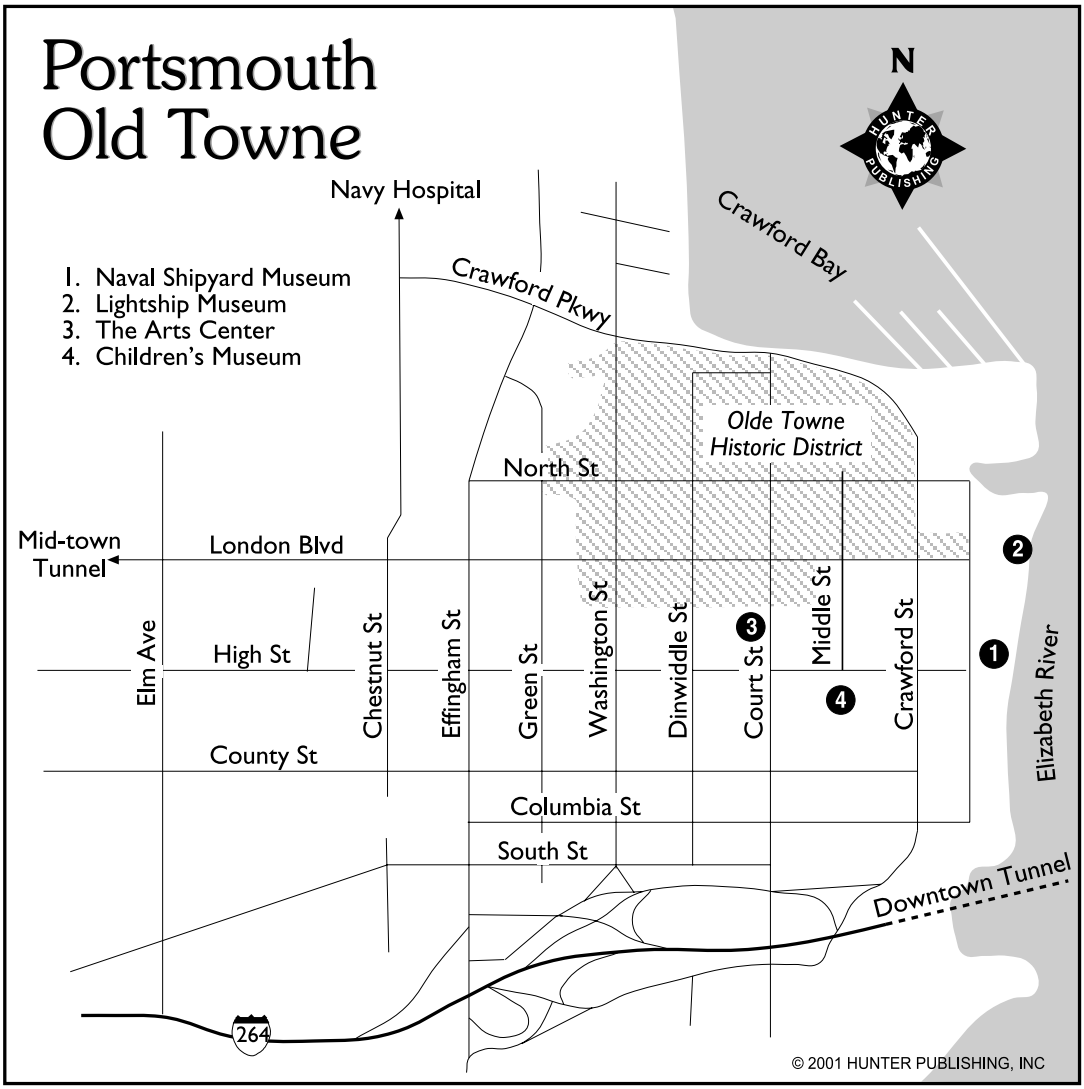
**Naval Shipyard Museum**, at 2 High Street on the waterfront, is a log of naval history dating back to the 1700s. Exhibits include model ships and




memorabilia from the nation's oldest shipyard, along with more that portray the lifestyle of 18th- and 19th-century Portsmouth.

**The Virginia Sports Hall of Fame**, 420 High Street, offers inspirational displays depicting Virginia's best athletes. It also honors those of outstanding achievement or service to sports in Virginia. Admission is free.

**The Hill House**, Olde Towne Portsmouth, is a four-story English basement dwelling containing the original furnishings and antiques collected by generations of the Hill family. Built in the 1800s, it is the only home of its kind in Portsmouth open regularly to the public. The house is at 221 North Street and is open for tours April through October, on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday from 1 until 5 p.m. ☎ 757-393-0241.




**The Museum of Military History**, 701 Court Street, is a privately-owned collection of uniforms, weapons and memorabilia from every war in the nation's history. For hours, ☎ 757-393-2773.

**The Pokey Smoky** is a small-scale replica of a 19th-century steam locomotive; it takes passengers on a ride through Portsmouth's City Park. ☎ 757-465-2937.

**Visual Arts Center – TCC at Olde Towne** at 340 High Street is a gallery space for Tidewater Community College's high-tech art school. Open daily to the public. ☎ 757-822-6999.

**The Olde Towne Walking Tour** lasts about an hour and takes in some 45 historic sights and places of interest. Pick up your map and tour itinerary from the Portsmouth Visitor Information Center at 6 Crawford Parkway, or ☎ 800-PORTS-VA to have it mailed to you.

**The Olde Towne Lantern Tour** begins in the lobby of the Holiday Inn-Olde Towne at 8:30 p.m. on Tuesdays from June through September, and features costumed interpreters. Olde Towne Portsmouth is beautiful in

the evenings; the lights twinkle on the boats in Crawford Bay and lanterns give a warm glow to the cobblestone streets. ☎ 800-PORTS-VA.

**Olde Towne Trolley Tours** depart from the Visitor Information Center at North Landing. The one-hour narrated tour is offered from Memorial Day through Labor Day. ☎ 757-393-5111 or 800-PORTS-VA.

***Carrie B* Harbor Cruise**. The *Carrie B* is a reproduction of a 19th-century Mississippi river boat that provides cruises by the nation's oldest naval shipyard and nation's largest naval base. It is a great way to see the waterfront landmarks of the historical area. Cruises depart from North Landing twice daily. For schedules and more information, ☎ 757-393-4735.

**Chesapeake Bay Cruises** depart May through October from Portsmouth heading for Crisfield, Maryland, with a detour to Tangier Island. Overnight excursions feature an all-you-can-eat crab feast, motel accommodations at the Pines Motel in Crisfield, along with a buffet breakfast and lunch on board the vessel both days. ☎ 410-968-2338 or 800-863-2338.

**The Elizabeth River Ferry**, operated by HRT between Norfolk and Portsmouth, ☎ 757-640-6300, and the **Ocean Marine Water Taxi**, ☎ 757-391-3000, are other fun ways to see the Portsmouth waterfront area.

## *Events*

For dates and information concerning the following events, call the **Portsmouth Convention & Visitors Bureau** at 800-PORTS-VA.

**A Taste of Portsmouth** features the best of Portsmouth restaurants. Held in February.

**The Crawford Bay Crew Classic** is an intercollegiate rowing regatta held in March.

**Virginia Waterfront International Arts Festival** is a month-long affair featuring world-class performances throughout the 50-mile region of the Virginia waterfront. For locations of Portsmouth performances, ☎ 757-664-6492 or visit www.vaintlartsfest.com.

**Memorial Day Remembrance** features the nation's oldest continually-running Memorial Day Parade.

**The Seawall Festival** is a family festival featuring a children's park, food, crafts, golden oldies and beach music. Held in early June.

**The Cock Island Race**, held in late June, has become one of the largest sailing events on the East Coast. More than 100 sailboat race on the Elizabeth River.

**The Eastern Amateur Golf Tournament**, held in July, attracts the top 150 amateur golfers in the US and internationally.

**A Faire For the Arts**, known for years as the Seawall Art Show, is an outdoor juried show emphasizing visual and performing arts in late August.

**Rendezvous**, **Mile Marker Zero**, is a social event held in September, for owners of powerboats and yachts.

**The Umoja Festival** in mid-September is an African-American celebration of music, dance and art. The weekend features an African marketplace, children's activities, food and exhibits.

**Olde Towne Ghost Walk** is held in late October. Costumed re-enactors tell tales of the ghosts and haunted houses on a walking tour of Olde Towne.

**Olde Towne Arts & Antiques Festival** is an "open house" by antique shops and art galleries in mid-November.

**The Lighted Boat Parade and Fireworks** take place in late November on the Portsmouth and Norfolk waterfronts.

December features the **Olde Towne Historic Holiday Trolley Tours**, home tours of **Olde Towne** and **Port Norfolk**, and the **Olde Towne Holiday Music Festival**.



## *Entertainment*

At **The Commodore Theatre**, 421 High Street, visitors can take in a first-run movie on a 42-foot screen while having dinner and drinks in this 1945 art deco-style movie theater. ☎ 757-393-6962.

**The Portsmouth Riverfront Performing Art Center**, in the South Harbor area, is a 6,000-seat outdoor theater and festival park for cultural events, entertainment and city festivals. There are 3,500 covered seats and 2,500 lawn seats.

**The Willett Hall**, 3701 Willett Drive, presents regionally and nationally known entertainment and seats 2,000 people. For a schedule of events, tickets, or more information, ☎ 757-393-5144 or 800-488-6761.

## *Shopping*

**Olde Towne Portsmouth** and the waterfront area offer a great many unique shopping opportunities. The historic district abounds with tiny shops and stores, antique shops, crafts and fine art shops, and stores where you can find custom-made jewelry and ceramics. For the mall

shopper, there's **Tower Mall**, the nearby **Chesapeake Square Mall**, and **Norfolk's Waterside**, only a five-minute ferry ride away.

# Recreation

## Parks & Preserves

**Portsmouth City Park** is a beautifully landscaped 93-acre facility overlooking the Western Branch of the Elizabeth River and Baines Creek. Activities and facilities include boating, tennis, workshops, programmed activities and live entertainment. There is also a nine-hole golf course. ☎ 757-465-2937.

**Sleepy Hole Park**, overlooking the Nansemond River in Suffolk, is owned by the City of Portsmouth. The park offers visitors a pleasant day out among the tall oak trees along the river bank, a well-stocked fishing lake, and plenty of room to relax. ☎ 757-538-4100.

**Hoffler Creek Wildlife Preserve**, 4510 Twin Pines Road, is the last viable wilderness area in Portsmouth, and was saved from development by a group of volunteer residents. Now, the 142-acre site consists of wetlands, wooded forest and a unique saltwater lake. There are hiking trails and demonstration areas, including a butterfly garden, a backyard habitat and an oyster garden. A nature center is scheduled for completion in the fall of 2000. For hours, ☎ 757-483-3054.

## Golf

**Bide-A-Wee**, on Bide-A-Wee Lane, is an 18-hole championship course renovated in 1999 with PGA tour consultant Curtis Strange. The layout has bent grass greens and Bermuda fairways. There are two practice putting greens, a golf range and chipping green, restaurant, lounge and meeting rooms. The course has hosted two Virginia State Opens and the Eastern Amateur in 1999. ☎ 757-393-8600.

**The Links at City Park**, 140 City Park Avenue, offers a challenging layout for novice and expert golfer alike. Par for the nine-hole executive course is 31, with five par-3 holes and four par-4. There is also an 18-hole putting course and 30-station lighted driving range. Facilities include PGA instruction, a pro shop and concessions. ☎ 757-465-1500.

**The Sleepy Hole Golf Course** is owned by the city of Portsmouth, but is located in Suffolk, overlooking the Nansemond River. The brisk winds that blow in off the river make the course something of a challenge for golfers at all levels of skill. Facilities at the course include a PGA professional, club fitting and repairs and an excellent driving range. The golf shop offers an outstanding selection of golf equipment, clothing and gifts. ☎ 757-538-4100.

**The Suffolk Golf Course** is an 18-hole, par 72 championship course designed by Russell Breeden. ☎ 757-539-6298.

### *Marinas*

**Nautical Boats and Marina**, 3825 Adams Street, ☎ 757-483-6148, has 200 slips and wide piers.

**Portsmouth Boating Center**, 1244 Bay Street, ☎ 757-397-2092, has dry storage, a travel lift and rental slips.

**Scotts Creek Marina**, 6 Harper Avenue, ☎ 757-399-2628, has 135 deep slips, a swimming pool and ship store.

**The Tidewater Yacht Marina** is a full service marina where the facilities include a ship store, an on-water restaurant and 350 deep-water slips for boats from 20 to 100 feet. The marina is located at the Zero Mile Post on the Intracoastal Waterway and at Red Buoy #36 on the Elizabeth River. ☎ 757-393-2525 or 888-390-0080.

**Virginia Boat & Yacht**, 3515 Shipwright Street, ☎ 757-673-7167, offers complete travel lift service, monthly slip rentals and repairs.

## *Dining*

**Amory's Wharf**, 10 Crawford Parkway, ☎ 757-399-0991, is in the Tidewater Yacht Marina and offers a spectacular waterfront view of the Norfolk skyline. Seafood is the thing here, with dishes like surf and turf, oysters Rockefeller, and several regional specialties. Open for lunch and dinner.

**The Bier Garden**, 434 High Street, ☎ 757-393-6022, serves authentic German cuisine and offers more than 100 beers from around the world.

**The Café** at Pfeiffer's Books, Cards & Fine Wines, 606 High Street, ☎ 757-397-2665, is an experience like no other. Fusion cuisine is served for lunch and dinner.

**Café Europa**, 319 High Street, ☎ 757-399-6652, is open for lunch and dinner. The restaurant offers a continental menu served in an intimate European atmosphere. Specialties of the house include seafood gazpacho, veal dishes, and fabulous desserts.

**The China Garden**, 301 High Street, ☎ 757-399-8888, serves a Chinese buffet that is a favorite among locals. It's conveniently located near the Children's Museum and The Commodore Theatre.

**The Circle** at 3010 High Street, ☎ 757-397-8196, is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner, specializing in seafood and steak. Its wine bar and buffet are popular with local people.

**The Lobscouser Restaurant**, 337 High Street, ☎ 757-397-2728, offers seafood dining in casual elegance in the heart of Olde Towne Portsmouth.

**The Scale O' De Whale**, 3515 Shipwright Street, off West Norfolk Bridge, ☎ 757-483-2772, is open for lunch and dinner. The restaurant is at the end of the pier and has a rustic nautical decor. Home-baked bread, seafood and steak are specialties.

## *Accommodations*

Most establishments offer both handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms, but be sure to ask when making reservations.

### *Hotels & Motels*

**The Renaissance Portsmouth Hotel & Waterfront Conference Center**, 425 Water Street, ☎ 757-673-3000, is the centerpiece of Portsmouth's revitalized waterfront. There are 250 guest rooms, all with water views, a 144-seat restaurant, two ballrooms, a marina, amphitheater, indoor pool, and seven meeting rooms.

**Best Western Inn and Suites**, 333 Effingham Street, ☎ 757-397-5806, is close to all the major attractions. There is a restaurant, and free continental breakfast is provided along with cable TV and an outdoor pool. $$

**Comfort Inn-Olde Towne**, 347 Effingham Street, ☎ 757-397-7788, is a new facility with 62 guest rooms. There are also suites with Jacuzzi and fully-furnished efficiencies, an outdoor pool and exercise room. $$

**Days Inn**, 1031 London Boulevard, ☎ 757-399-4414, offers fully furnished studio suites, non-smoking and handicapped-accessible rooms, a free continental breakfast and coffee in the lobby. The facilities include an exercise room. $$

**Holiday Inn-Olde Towne**, 8 Crawford Parkway, ☎ 757-393-2573, has 221 guest rooms including non-smoking and handicapped-accessible rooms. The hotel is on the Elizabeth River waterfront. Facilities include an outdoor swimming pool, exercise room, dockage, a lounge with a riverfront deck, meeting rooms, guest laundry, valet and room service. Rooms have coffee makers, hairdryers, iron and ironing boards. $$-$$$

**Super 8 Motel** is at 925 London Boulevard, ☎ 757-398-0612 or 800-800-8000, offers affordable accommodations with 56 guest rooms. $

### *Bed & Breakfasts / Inns*

**Bianca Boat & Breakfast**, 10 Crawford Parkway, ☎ 757-625-5033 or 800-695-1487, is a seafaring version of the traditional bed and breakfast. The 43-foot yacht has two cabins and accommodates up to four guests. It is docked at night at the Tidewater Yacht Marina where guests can use

the swimming pool and restaurant. Private cruise charters are available. $$$

**Glen Coe Bed & Breakfast Inn** at 222 North Street, ☎ 757-397-8128, is an 1890s Victorian home in Olde Towne Portsmouth. It has three guest rooms. $$

**Olde Towne Bed & Breakfast Inn**, 420 Middle Street, ☎ 757-397-5462 or 800-353-0278, is a Victorian brick home with verandah porches and wrought-iron work. There are four guest rooms. $$$

**Port Norfolk Bed & Breakfast**, 500 Broad Street, ☎ 757-397-9134, is a 1909 Victorian Four Square with two guest rooms and an outdoor pool.

## *Transportation*

Portsmouth is located in the heart of Hampton Roads and is easily accessible from all directions. It is dissected by four major highways: **Interstate 264** and **Highway 58** run east and west; **Routes 17** and **164**, the Western Freeway, run north and south. All four highways connect to the **Interstate 64/664** Beltway. By water, Portsmouth is located at the Zero Mile Marker of the Intracoastal Waterway, with quick and inexpensive ferry service to Norfolk's waterfront. The ferry docks at North Landing, and three blocks south at the new High Street Landing ferry terminal.

**Norfolk International Airport** is a 30-minute drive from Portsmouth and serves both commercial and passenger air traffic.

## *Information*

For visitors guides, brochures and information, contact the **Portsmouth Convention & Visitors Bureau**, 505 Crawford Street, Portsmouth, Virginia 23704. ☎ 757-393-5327 or 800-PORTS-VA.

**The Portsmouth Visitor Information Center** is at 6 Crawford Parkway at the North Landing ferry dock, ☎ 757-393-5111 or 800-PORTS-VA.

**The Portsmouth Department of Economic Development** is in the Wachovia Bank Building, 200 High Street, Suite 200, Portsmouth, VA 23704. ☎ 800-848-5690.

# Virginia Beach

Virginia Beach is perhaps the most popular vacation resort on the East Coast. If you like fun in the sun, crowded beaches where there's always plenty to see and do, surf, sand and watersports, then Virginia Beach is definitely for you. Its boardwalks, bays and more than 25 miles of

public beaches offer surf and pool swimming, some of the best fishing in the world, water-skiing, and surf-riding. And, if that's not enough, there are nearly a dozen magnificent golf courses, opportunities for tennis, hiking, bicycling and a whole host of outdoor recreational facilities to suit just about everyone. For those with a taste for dancing and dining, the opportunities are endless. Virginia Beach has some of the finest night spots in the nation and the food, including the famous Lynnhaven oyster, is talked about wherever you go. People who know, claim a Virginia Beach vacation is a larger-than-life waterfront experience.

## *History*

The first English settlers to land in America, did so at Cape Henry, Virginia Beach, on April 29, 1607, 13 years before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock. Those first settlers, led by Captain John Smith, then moved inland to found the first permanent English settlement at Jamestown.

Cape Henry lies on the northern tip of Virginia Beach at the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay where, during bad weather, the seas can be treacherous and unpredictable. In 1720, Virginia's governor requested that a lighthouse be built on Cape Henry. At first the English King refused, but finally agreed and work began only to be halted in 1774 by the outbreak of the Revolutionary War. The lighthouse was finally completed in 1791 and still stands to this day. In 1962 it became Virginia Beach's official symbol.

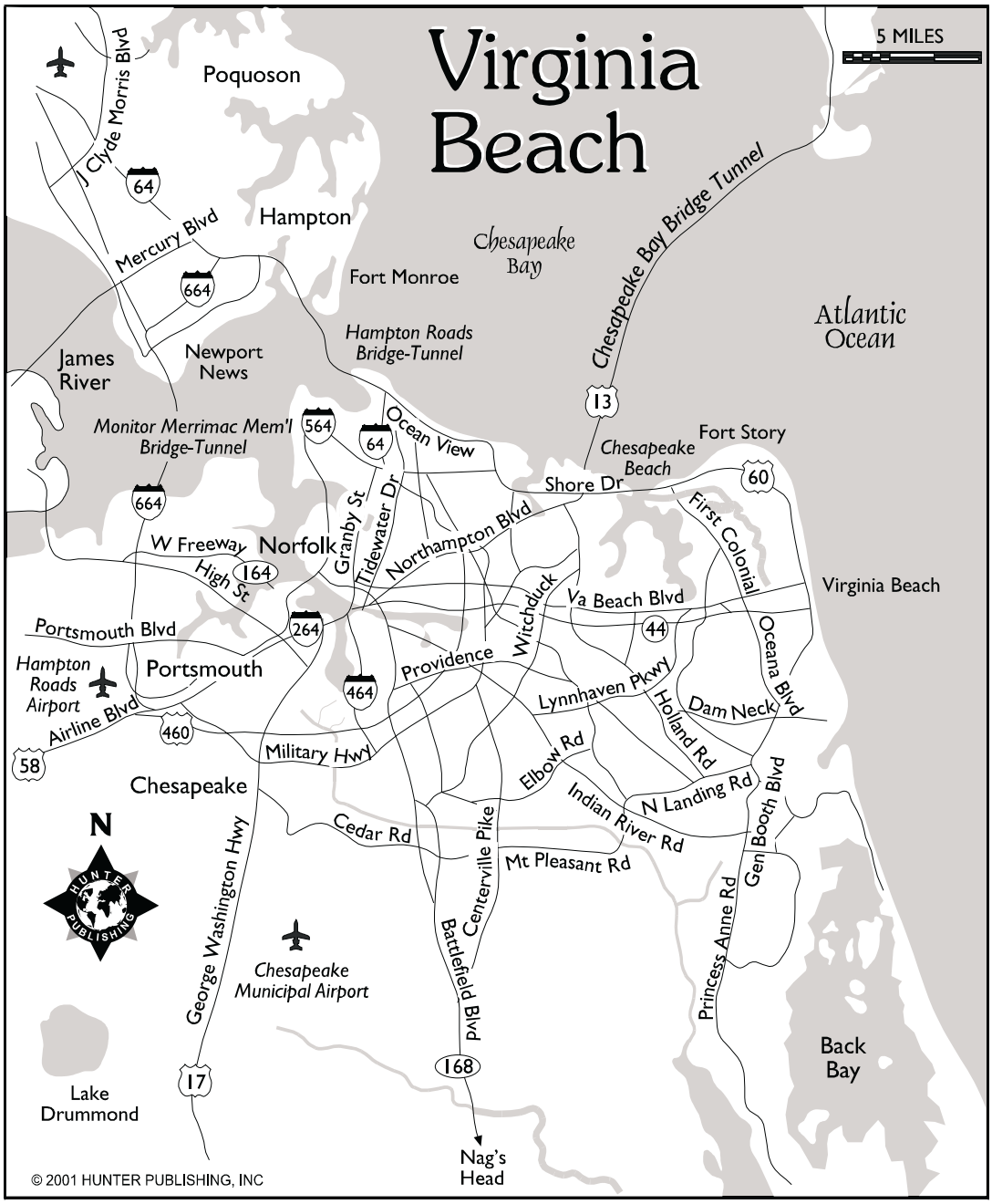
It wasn't until the 19th century that Virginia Beach gained its reputation as a popular vacation spot. The coming of the railroad brought easy access to the oceanfront from the bustling port city of Norfolk. Hotels began to spring up and the waterfront area went through various stages of construction and development. Back in those days, the great Princess Anne Hotel, a self-contained vacation paradise, occupied more than two oceanfront blocks and was served by a railroad link that ran almost to the lobby.

The boardwalk and the Cavalier Hotel were completed in the late 1920s and together they ushered in a new era of gaiety and prosperity. Since then, the resort has continued to increase in popularity and now counts itself second to none as the East Coast's premiere vacation spot.

## *Sights*

The **Association For Research and Enlightenment**, 67th Street and Atlantic Avenue, is the international headquarters for the work of psychic Edgar Cayce. ☎ 757-428-3588.

**Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum**, 1113 Atlantic Avenue, is in the century-old DeWitt Cottage, one of the oldest buildings on the oceanfront.




It is dedicated to the wildfowl of the Atlantic Flyway and features decoy exhibits and carving demonstrations. ☎ 757-437-8432.

**The Christian Broadcasting Network**, at Regent University, 977 Centerville Turnkpike, was founded by Pat Robertson, as was the University. The public is invited to tapings of the broadcasts. ☎ 757-226-7000.

**The Contemporary Art Center of Virginia**, 2200 Parks Avenue, is a 32,000-square-foot facility devoted to the presentation of 20th-century art through exhibitions, education and the performing arts. The center is open daily except Monday. ☎ 757-425-0000.

**Fort Story** is an active military base and a treasure of historic landmarks. The First Landing Cross marks the area where the first English settler touched shore in the New World in 1607 – 13 years before Plymouth. A monument pays tribute to the Battle Off the Capes, an important event of the Revolutionary War. The **Old Cape Henry Lighthouse** at Fort Story is the oldest government-built lighthouse in the nation, dating back to 1791. It's also the city's traditional symbol. ☎ 757-422-9421.

**McKee's Beatles Museum**, 205 25th Street on the Oceanfront, has hundreds of photos, album covers, lifelike waxworks, guitars and other memorabilia of the Fab Four. It's the only Beatles Museum in the country. ☎ 757-491-0491 or visit www.beatlesmuseum.com.

**The Naval Amphibious Base-Little Creek**, Shore Drive, is the major operating base for the amphibious forces of the United States Atlantic Fleet. ☎ 757-462-7923.

**Norwegian Lady Statue**, at 25th Street on the Boardwalk, was a gift from the people of Moss, Norway and commemorates a tragic 1891 wreck off the Virginia Beach coast.

**The Ocean Breeze Fun Park** at 849 General Booth Boulevard offers family fun on the Wild Water Rapids, a waterpark with slides, a wave pool, and an assortment of children's water amusements. They also have the MotorWorld driving park, miniature golf, batting cages and whole lot more. The park is open daily, Memorial Day through Labor Day. ☎ 757-422-4444 or 800-678-WILD.

At **Oceana Naval Air Station** you can watch the Navy's most advanced aircraft take off and land from Jet Landing Observation Points on Oceana Boulevard and London Bridge Road. ☎ 757-433-3131.

**The Old Coast Guard Station** at 24th Street and Oceanfront, a former 1903 US Life Saving Station. It houses visual exhibits of a number of shipwrecks along the Virginia coastline that tell the story of bravery and disaster. You'll see artifacts, rescue equipment, photographs and models. Visitors can take a peek through the TOWERCAM mounted on the roof that zooms in on passing ships. The museum is open Tuesday through Sunday year-round. ☎ 757-422-1587.

**Tidewater Veterans Memorial**, on the 1000 block of 19th Street, is a modern sculpture waterfall paying tribute to the area's military forces.

**The Virginia Marine Science Museum**, 717 General Booth Boulevard, is one of the top 10 aquariums in the country. It has 800,000 gallons of aquariums, more than 100 hands-on exhibits depicting the marine environment, and an IMAX 3-D theater. Housed here are sharks, sea turtles, seals, dolphins, sea otters, and even a stingray petting tank. An outdoor boardwalk takes visitors through a salt marsh for views of waterfowl and other marine animals. The museum is open daily except

Thanksgiving, Christmas Day and January 1st. ☎ 757-425-FISH or visit www.vmsm.com.

### *Historic Homes*

Virginia Beach has four historic homes that are open to the public:

**The Adam Thoroughgood House**, 1636 Parish Road, is one of the oldest remaining brick houses in the United States. Built in 1680 and restored and remodeled in 1745, the house is reminiscent of an old English cottage. A feature here is the fine 17th-century "gentlemen's pleasure garden." The house is open on weekends only. ☎ 757-460-0007 or 757-664-6296.

**The Francis Land House** at 3131 Virginia Beach Boulevard once was the residence of a prominent family of planters. The 18th-century Dutch gambrel roofed house represents the architecture and lifestyle enjoyed by the gentry of colonial Virginia. The house is furnished with period antiques and is open Tuesday through Sunday. ☎ 757-431-4000.

**Lynnhaven House** at 4405 Wishart Road is a stately, well-preserved example of 18th-century architecture. The house was built in 1725 and is open daily except Monday. ☎ 757-460-1688 or 757-456-0351.

**Upper Wolfsnare** at 2040 Potters Road is a brick country home built by Thomas Walke III in 1759. Walke was a ratifier of the US Constitution. Features of the home include period furniture, china, Walke family portraits and an authentic 18th-century herb garden. The house is open by appointment. ☎ 757-491-3490.

## *Annual Events*

**The Mid-Atlantic Sports and Boat Show** is held at the Virginia Beach Pavilion in February. ☎ 757-437-4774.

**Spring Wine Festival** features an international sampling of wines in mid-April. ☎ 757-491-SUNN.

**The Virginia Waterfront International Arts Festival**, is an 18-day festival held from late April to early May in locations throughout Hampton Roads, and showcasing world-class art and performances by regional artists and from around the world. Even though it only began in 1997, the festival has gained a national reputation for drawing renowned artists in music, dance and theater. The signature event is a performance by the Virginia International Tatoo. ☎ 757-664-6492 or visit www.vaintlartsfest.com.

**The Annual Beach Music Weekend** takes places in the sand in May and features lots of grooving to the city's official dance: The Shag. ☎ 757-491-SUNN.

**The Spring Boardwalk Auto Expo** features the finest in classic, antique and custom vehicles on the Boardwalk in mid-May. ☎ 757-491-SUNN.

**The Pungo Strawberry Festival** takes place over two days in late May in one of the city's farming communities. ☎ 757-721-6001.

**Viva Elvis** is a tribute to The King, held in late May. Features Elvis impersonators and food vendors offering Elvis' favorites. ☎ 757-491-SUNN

**The Boardwalk Art Show & Festival**, held over four days in June, showcases works by hundreds of artists from around the United States. Paintings, ceramics, fine crafts, sculpture and photography are shown – many for sale – along the 14-block stretch of the Virginia Beach Boardwalk. ☎ 757-425-0000.

**The East Coast Surfing Championship** is the oldest surfing contest in the nation. It is held over two days in late August. ☎ 757-499-8822.

**The Pontiac American Music Festival** is held in early September at several stages along the oceanfront. It is billed as the largest musical event on the East Coast. ☎ 757-491-SUNN.

**The Neptune Festival** is a boisterous celebration of the final days of summer lasting two weeks mid-September. ☎ 757-498-0215.

**Holiday Lights at the Beach** is a driving tours through 250 dazzling and animated light displays along the oceanfront from mid-November through New Year's. ☎ 757-491-SUNN.

**The Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament** is a Commonwealth of Virginia-sponsored event held year-round and open to everyone who fishes in the tournament waters and complies with the rules. For information and rules, contact the Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament, 968 S. Oriole Drive, Suite 102, Virginia Beach, VA 23451, ☎ 757-491-5160.

## *Entertainment*

Virginia Beach is a resort town, so it comes as no surprise that the entire city is dedicated to the entertainment of its visitors. Music and dance clubs abound and there's something available for everyone, from jazz to country and from reggae to golden oldies and beach music. For the young at heart, the sophisticated, or people simply looking for a casual night out on the town where blue jeans and tank-tops are the accepted mode of dress, it's all there in Virginia Beach.

There are so many nightclubs and other opportunities it's impossible to list them all here. Once you arrive, you'll find up-to-date listings in the local newspapers or at the Visitor Information Center. ☎ 800-VA BEACH.

**GTE Virginia Beach Amphitheater** is a dazzling, 20,000-seat outdoor concert venue that attracts major rock, country and jazz artists between May and October. ☎ 757-368-3000. For tickets, call your local Ticketmaster or ☎ 757-671-8100.

**The Thoroughgood Inn Comedy Club**, 4801 Shore Drive, offers top entertainment with nationally known comedians in a full-service restaurant. ☎ 757-460-8399.

**The Little Theatre of Virginia Beach**, at 24th Street and Barberton Drive, showcases local talent performing a variety of theatrical productions from drama to music. For more information and schedules, ☎ 757-428-9233.

**The Virginia Beach Pavilion Convention Center**, 1000 19th Street, hosts major shows, conventions and events. ☎ 757-428-8000 for tickets, or 757-437-4774 for a recording of the schedule.

**Virginia Beach Pavilion Theater**, 1000 19th Street, ☎ 757-437-7600, hosts dance, musicals and theater productions.

**The Virginia Beach Sportsplex** is a three-level, 6,000-seat stadium that opened in 1998 as the home of the Hampton Roads Mariners professional soccer team. The adjacent Hampton Roads Soccer Complex features 19 multi-sport playing fields. ☎ 757-430-8873.

**The Virginia Musical Theatre** performs at the Pavilion Theater at 1000 19th Street. It is a full-scale, professional musical company. ☎ 757-340-5446.

**The Virginia Symphony** gives performances at the Pavilion in Virginia Beach and in Chrysler Hall in Norfolk. Call for information and schedules at ☎ 757-623-2310.



## *Dining*

With more than 100 restaurants to choose from, eating out in Virginia's oceanfront city offers everything from come-as-you-are barbecue to elegant French dining. It's impossible to list them all, but here is a sampling. For more information, contact the Virginia Beach Convention & Visitors Bureau at ☎ 800-VA-BEACH or visit www.vbfun.com.

**Alexander's On The Bay**, at the foot of Fentress Street, ☎ 757-464-4999, has a spectacular view of the Bay from every table. It is located at the foot of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel and decorated in a nautical theme. Specialties of the house include veal Oscar, chateaubriand, lobster and their own desserts. Open for dinner only.

**The Beach Pub**, 1001 Laskin Road, ☎ 757-422-8817, isn't fancy, but locals rave about the weekend breakfasts which are served until 2 p.m. Where else can you order crab cakes and clam fritters with your eggs?

The Sunday clientele ranges from those coming straight from church to those heading for their surfboards. Open daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

**Blue Pete's Seafood & Steak Restaurant**, 1400 Muddy Creek Road, ☎ 757-426-2005, is open for dinner, closed Mondays. Specialties include fresh seafood, sweet potato biscuits and their own desserts. The restaurant is located on a creek in a wooded area.

**Captain George's Seafood Restaurant** has two locations at 2272 Pungo Ferry Road, ☎ 757-721-3463, and 1956 Laskin Road, ☎ 757-428-3494. Both are open for dinner only, offering a multitude of fresh seafood choices, generously served. It's hard, but try to save room for their dessert favorites that include strawberry shortcake and baklava.

**The Coastal Grill**, 1427 Great Neck Road, ☎ 757-496-3348, is open for dinner. Specialties include fresh fish and roast chicken in light and airy surroundings and a totally non-smoking atmosphere.

**Frankie's Place For Ribs**, has two locations at 408 Laskin Boulevard, ☎ 757-428-7631, and 5200 Fairfield Shopping Center, ☎ 757-495-7427. If you're someone who can never get enough ribs, Frankie's is the place. Beef or pork, rack or half-rack, they're served up no-nonsense style. Utensils are optional. Frankie's is open for lunch and dinner.

**Henry's Planet Seafood**, 3319 Shore Drive, ☎ 757-481-7300, is open for lunch and dinner with plenty of fresh seafood specialties. The restaurant has a cylindrical aquarium in the middle of the two-story lobby, a raw bar, and views of busy Lynnhaven Inlet. Open for lunch and dinner daily.

**La Caravelle Restaurant** at 1040 Laskin Road, ☎ 757-428-2477, is open for dinner only, offering a French-Vietnamese menu. Specialties include Vietnamese Imperial Rolls, Le Crab en Chemise, daily lobster specials, and vegetarian dishes. The restaurant features romantic French country decor and a pianist in the evenings.

**Le Chambord** and **The Bistro**, 324 N. Great Neck Road, ☎ 757-498-1234, are actually two restaurants in one location, offering lunch and dinner. Le Chambord has a French continental menu, with specialties of seafood, beef and duck, served with pampered elegance. The pastry car is to die for. The Bistro offers more affordable, casual dining. Both are located in an old post office building featuring modern Mediterranean-style decor and fireplaces.

**The Lynnhaven Fish House**, 2350 Starfish Road, ☎ 757-481-0003, is open for lunch and dinner. Specialties are fresh seafood and Belgian whiskey pudding. The restaurant is on Lynnhaven fishing pier and has a live lobster tank and a raw bar.

**The Pungo Grill**, 1785 Princess Anne Road, ☎ 757-426-6655, is open for lunch and dinner and offers a regional American and Continental menu.

Specialties include Cajun soups, home-made desserts and French roast coffee.

**Rudee's On The Inlet**, 227 Mediterranean Avenue, ☎ 757-425-1777, is open for lunch and dinner. Specialties are fresh seafood, steamed shrimp and handcut steak. The restaurant features outdoor dining, a raw bar, nautical decor and a casual atmosphere.

**San Antonio Sam's Ice House Café**, 604 Norfolk Avenue, ☎ 757-491-0263, is open for dinner and offers Tex-Mex cuisine. Specialties include fajitas, enchiladas and chili.

**Tandom's Pine Tree Inn**, 2932 Virginia Beach Boulevard, ☎ 757-340-3661, is open for lunch and dinner and offers a Continental menu. Specialties of the house include fresh seafood, prime rib and veal Oscar.

**Waterman's**, 415 Atlantic Avenue, ☎ 757-428-3644, is open for lunch and dinner daily and Sunday brunch, specializing in seafood and beef. The restaurant features four dining areas, all with a view of the ocean.

## *Shopping*

As the most populated city in the Commonwealth, the shopping opportunities in Virginia Beach are virtually boundless. Stores in the resort areas, in the malls and in the shopping centers are open seven days a week and provide just about everything you might want.

**The Resort Area**, which encompasses 2nd Street through 40th Street, is an extravaganza of souvenir shops, surf shops, art galleries and craft shops.

**Birchwood Consumer Center** at 3750 Virginia Beach Boulevard features designer labels at bargain prices, including clothing, shoes, linens, books and kitchenware.

**The Hilltop Area** at Laskin and First Colonial Roads consists of Hilltop East, North and West; Hilltop Square, Regency Hilltop; and La Promenade. These are all shopping centers offering everything from the best in haute couture and fine jewelry to discount merchandise.

**Loehmann's Plaza**, at Virginia Beach Boulevard and Stepney Lane, features Loehmann's, Lillian Vernon and Linens 'N Things outlets.

**Lynnhaven Mall** at 701 Lynnhaven Parkway is one of the largest shopping malls on the East Coast, with several large department stores and many small shops and restaurants.

**The Pembroke Mall** at Virginia Beach and Independence boulevards is the first mall ever built in Virginia Beach. It features several large department stores, including Sears, Upton's and Dillard's, along with a variety of specialty shops and restaurants.

# Recreation

Virginia Beach has recreational opportunities aplenty. From surfing to deep-sea fishing, windsurfing to golf, and from jet skiing to scuba diving, whatever your fancy you'll find it somewhere in Virginia Beach.

## Parks & Natural Areas

Throughout the city, a number of parks provide a variety of recreational facilities and activities. These include play areas, ball fields, picnic areas, and lakes. For more information, call the Department of Parks, ☎ 757-563-1100.

**Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge**, 4005 Sandpiper Road, ☎ 757-721-2412, is a 7,700-acre refuge of beach, woodland and marsh in southern Virginia Beach. The park provides natural habitats for migratory waterfowl. The best months to visit are December and January, when you can see whistling swans, bald eagles and peregrine falcons. Biking and hiking are available.

**False Cape State Park** is five miles south of the Back Bay Refuge at 4001 Sandpiper Road. The park is one of the few remaining undeveloped areas along the Atlantic coastline, and is accessible only by foot, boat, bike or guided tram tour. No private vehicles are allowed. The park offers a unique opportunity to see marine birds and animals like pelicans and dolphins in their native habitat, along with a variety of marine plants, forests and dunes. Camping is allowed in the park at designated sites, but all water and gear must be carried in, and it's a five-mile trek. ☎ 757-426-7128.

**First Landing State Park**, 2500 Shore Drive, ☎ 757-412-2300, encompasses almost 3,000 acres of some of Virginia's finest parkland. Its salt marshes, lagoons, Chesapeake Bay beach and woodlands provide diverse natural habitat for many species of wild birds and animals. Facilities at the park include a new visitors center, 27 miles of hiking and bike trails, picnic areas and boat ramps. Guided walks are available. Camping facilities include cabins and full-service campsites.

**Mount Trashmore**, 300 Edwin Drive, is a former landfill transformed into a playground for old and young alike. Fly a kite from the highest point in the city or take a stroll around the man-made lake. ☎ 757-497-2157.

## Fishing

Novices or experienced fishermen can charter a private boat to try their luck at catching large game fish, or join a group on board a party boat for a half-day or full-day excursion out of the Lynnhaven Inlet on the Chesapeake Bay. Party boats leave from the **Lynnhaven Seafood Marina**, ☎ 757-481-4545; the **Virginia Beach Fishing Center**, ☎ 757-422-5700;

**Bubba's Marina**, ☎ 757-481-3513; **Fisherman's Wharf Charters**, ☎ 757-428-2111; and the **Rudee Inlet Station Marina**, ☎ 757-422-2999.

**Back Bay** and **Lake Smith** provide the best opportunities for freshwater fishing in the area. All you need is a fishing pole and a license. Temporary fishing licenses can be obtained at the Virginia Beach Municipal Center, corner of Princess Anne and James Madison boulevards, Building 10B, thrid floor, ☎ 757-427-8822, or at any store that sells fishing tackle.

## *Kayaking*

With more than 120 miles of scenic waterway, Virginia Beach offers paddling opportunities galore. Local outfitters and guides include: **Adventure Alternatives**, ☎ 757-468-4669 (www.adventurealternatives.com); **Wild River Outfitters**, ☎ 757-431-8566 (www.wildriveroutfitters.com); or **Tidewater Adventures Kayak Eco Tours**, ☎ 757-480-1999 or 888-669-8368 (www.tidewateradventures.com).

## *Golf*

The year-round mild weather makes Virginia Beach a popular place to tee off. There are 10 courses open to the public in the immediate Virginia Beach area. Several participate in the city's Golf Package Program and all are willing to arrange golf outings for groups.

**The Bow Creek Municipal Golf Course**, 3425 Clubhouse Road. ☎ 757-431-3763. The par-70 course measures 5,917 yards.

**The Cypress Point Country Club**, 5340 Club Head Road. ☎ 757-490-8822. Par 72; 6,740 yards.

**The Hell's Point Golf Club**, 2700 Atwoodtown Road. ☎ 757-721-3400. The course measures 6,766, with a par of 72.

**Heron Ridge**, on Seabord Road, ☎ 757-426-3800, is a new 7,010-yard, par-72 public course.

**Honey Bee Golf Club** at 5016 S. Independence Boulevard, ☎ 757-471-2768, is a 6,005-yard, par-70 course.

**Kempsville Greens Municipal Golf Course** at 4840 Princess Anne Road, ☎ 757-474-8441, is a 6,013-yard, par-70 course.

**Owl's Creek Family Golf** at 411 S. Birdneck Road, ☎ 757-428-2800, measures 4,155 yards, with a par of 62.

**The Red Wing Lake Municipal Course** at 1080 Prosperity Road, ☎ 757-437-4845, is a 7,080-yard, par-72 course.

**Stumpy Lake Golf Course** at 4797 E. Indian River Road, ☎ 757-467-6119, measures 6,846 yards, with a par of 72.

**The Tournament Players Club of Virginia Beach**, 2500 Tournament Drive, ☎ 757-563-9440 or toll-free 877-4-THETPC, is a new facility and ranks among the nation's finest. The championship par-72 public course has 7,000-plus yards. PGA pros are available for lessons. The club hosts a Nike tour event in May.

### *Tennis*

Virginia Beach has nearly 200 public tennis courts – most of them lighted and all free. Just south of the resort area, the Parks and Recreation Department operates the **Owl's Creek Municipal Tennis Center**, ☎ 757-437-4757. The Center offers tennis lessons and tournaments with seating for 1,300 persons, and charges a nominal court fee.

## *Accommodations*

As one of the most popular resorts on the East Coast, Virginia Beach offers just about any type of lodging you can imagine. A sampling from the affordable to the luxurious follows. For more information, contact the Virginia Beach Convention & Visitors Bureau at ☎ 800-VA-BEACH or visit www.vbfun.com.

Most establishments offer both handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms, but be sure to ask when making reservations.

### *Hotels & Motels*

**Beach Carousel**, 1300 Pacific Avenue, ☎ 757-425-1700 or 800-813-7692, is a small motel with 38 guest rooms. There is a heated pool and cable TV. $$

**Belvedere Motel**, 36th Street at the oceanfront, ☎ 800-425-0612, has 50 guest rooms, many with balconies. There is a swimming pool and room service. $$-$$$

**Best Western Oceanfront**, 11th and Atlantic Avenue, ☎ 800-631-5000, has 110 guest rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms and all with ocean views. There is a bar, meeting rooms, a pool, valet service and free coffee in the lobby. $$$

**The Breakers Resort Inn**, 1503 Atlantic Avenue, ☎ 800-237-7532, has 56 guest rooms with private balconies. There are 15 suites, a heated pool, an exercise room, a free continental breakfast, and free bicycle rentals. $$$

**Captain's Quarters Resort Hotel**, 304 28th Street, ☎ 800-333-6020, has 75 guest rooms. Facilities include a heated pool, a whirlpool, cable TV and free coffee in the rooms. $$-$$$

**The Cavalier**, 42nd Street at Atlantic Avenue, ☎ 800-446-8199, has 384 guest rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms.

There is a full-service restaurant, a café, a bar, meeting rooms, lighted tennis, two pools, an exercise room, valet service, room service and free coffee in the lobby. $$$

**Clarion Hotel Pembroke**, 4453 Bonney Drive, ☎ 800-847-5202, has 149 guest rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. Facilities and services include a restaurant, a café, a bar, meeting rooms, a pool, valet service, free airport transportation and free coffee in the lobby. $$-$$$

**Comfort Inn-Oceanfront**, 20th and Atlantic Avenue, ☎ 800-443-4733, has 83 suites, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. There are meeting rooms, a pool, an exercise room, free coffee in the lobby and a free continental breakfast. $$-$$$

**Comfort Inn Virginia Beach**, 2800 Pacific Avenue, ☎ 800-441-0684, has 135 guest rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. There is an indoor/outdoor pool, an exercise room, and a free continental breakfast. $$-$$$

**Courtyard by Marriott**, 5700 Greenwich Road, ☎ 800-321-2211, has 146 guest rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. There are meeting rooms, a heated pool and an exercise room. $$

**Days Inn Airport**, 5708 Northampton Boulevard, ☎ 800-325-2525, is a motel with 148 guest rooms, located near Norfolk International Airport. There are meeting rooms, a heated pool, and an exercise room; a free continental breakfast is offered. $-$$

**Days Inn-Oceanfront**, 32nd Street and Atlantic Avenue, ☎ 800-292-3297, has 120 guest rooms, all with balconies overlooking the oceanfront, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. There are meeting rooms and a pool. Free coffee is available in the lobby. $$$

**Doubletree Virginia Beach**, 1900 Pavilion Drive, ☎ 800-313-0099, is a large luxury hotel with 292 guest rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. There is a restaurant, a café, a bar, meeting rooms, a pool, valet service, free oceanfront transportation, tennis and free coffee in the lobby. $$-$$$

**Econo Lodge Oceanfront**, 2109 Atlantic Avenue, ☎ 800-999-3630, is an oceanside motel with 55 guest rooms, including non-smoking and handicapped-accessible rooms, and some with ocean views. There is a swimming pool, meeting rooms, and free breakfast. $$-$$$

**Fairfield Inn by Marriott**, 4760 Euclid Avenue, ☎ 800-228-2800, has 134 guest rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. Pool; free coffee. $$

**Founders Inn**, 5641 Indian River Road, ☎ 800-926-4466, has 240 guest rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. This four-diamond Colonial-style hotel is on the campus of Regent University.

Amenities include a full-service restaurant, a café, a bar, meeting rooms, lighted tennis, two pools, an exercise room, valet service, room service, free coffee in the lobby, free airport and local transportation and golf privileges. $$$

**Hampton Inn**, 5793 Greenwich Road, ☎ 800-426-7866, is a motel with 122 guest rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. Facilities offer meeting rooms, a pool, and exercise room. Free coffee and complimentary continental breakfast. $$

**Hilton Inn**, 8th Street and Atlantic Avenue, ☎ 800-445-8667, has 120 guest rooms, all facing the ocean with private balconies. There are meeting rooms, indoor and outdoor pools, a restaurant, spa, and free coffee in the lobby. $$$

**Holiday Inn Executive Center**, 5655 Greenwich Road, ☎ 800-465-4329, has 336 guest rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. Amenities include a full-service restaurant, bar, meeting rooms, a pool, exercise room, valet service, room service and free coffee. $$-$$$

**Holiday Inn-Oceanside**, Atlantic Avenue and 21st Street, ☎ 800-882-3224, has 138 guest rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. There is a full-service restaurant, a bar, meeting rooms, a pool, a swimming beach, valet service, room service and free coffee in the lobby. $$-$$$

**Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort**, 39th Street and Oceanfront, ☎ 800-942-3224, has 266 guest rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. There is a full-service restaurant, a bar, meeting rooms, a pool, valet service, room service and free coffee in the lobby. $$$

**Howard Johnson Oceanfront North**, 3705 Atlantic Avenue, ☎ 800-446-4656, has 177 guest rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. There is a pool, meeting rooms and valet service. $$-$$$

**Howard Johnson Oceanfront South**, 18th and Atlantic Avenue, ☎ 800-258-1878, has 107 guest rooms with private balconies. There is an indoor pool, rooms with whirlpool, microwave and refrigerator available, and a guest laundry. $$-$$$

**Newcastle Motel**, 12th Street and Atlantic, ☎ 800-346-3176, has 83 guest rooms, including some suites with whirlpool tub and fireplaces. There is a heated, indoor pool, oceanfront restaurant, golf packages, and a restaurant. $$-$$$

**Ramada Plaza Resort Oceanside**, 57th Street and Atlantic, ☎ 800-365-3032, is a large vacation hotel with 215 guest rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms and some with ocean views. There is a restaurant, café, bar, meeting rooms, a pool with a swim-up

bar, a swimming beach, valet service, free continental breakfast and free coffee in the lobby. $$$

**The Sea Gull Motel**, Atlantic Avenue at 27th Street, ☎ 800-426-4855, has 51 guest rooms; king-size beds are available. Indoor pool, rooftop deck. $$-$$$

**Virginia Beach Resort Hotel & Conference Center**, 2800 Shore Drive, ☎ 800-468-2722, is a large luxury hotel with 295 suites, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms, overlooking the bay. Restaurant, café, bar, meeting rooms, pool, valet service, transportation, tennis, golf privileges, a private beach, boat and jet ski rentals, poolside service and free coffee in the lobby. $$$

## *Camping*

**First Landing/Seashore State Park** at 2500 Shore Drive, ☎ 757-412-2300 or 800-933-7275 (state park reservations), has 222 sites and 20 cabins and is open March through December. None of the sites has hookups, but there are flush toilets, hot showers and sewage disposal. There is a beach on the Chesapeake Bay for swimming and fishing, picnic areas, boat ramps, hiking and biking trails, a camp store and a visitor's center.

**Holiday Trav-L-Park** at 1075 General Booth Boulevard, ☎ 757-425-0249 or 800-548-0223, is a large, wooded campground with more than 1,000 sites, open all year. Facilities include 170 sites with full hookups, 379 with water and electric, 502 with no hookups, and 550 pull-throughs. Phone hookups are available. There are group sites, cabins, hot showers and sewage disposal. There's also a full-service store where RV supplies, groceries, ice and LP gas are available. Facilities include a recreation hall, a pavilion, four swimming pools, a wading pool, a fishing pond and bike rentals. There is a recreation director, planned activities, and a number of hiking and nature trails.

**North Bay Shore Campground**, 3257 Colchester Road, ☎ 757-426-7911, has about 200 sites – 100 with water and electric. Open April 15 through October 1. Facilities include flush toilets, hot showers, sewage disposal, a coin laundry, a grocery store, and public telephone. There is salt water swimming and fishing, a playground, a sports field, a tennis court and a volleyball court.

**Outdoor Resorts Virginia Beach**, 3665 S. Sandpiper Road, ☎ 800-333-7515, has 250 waterfront sites, all with water, electric and cable hookups, open year-round. Facilities include hot showers, sewage disposal, and public telephone. Recreational facilities include salt water swimming and fishing, a playground, bike rental and planned activities during the summer.

**Virginia Beach KOA Campground**, 1240 General Booth Boulevard, ☎ 757-428-1444 or 800-562-4150, is a semi-wooded campground with nearly 500 sites, open all year. Facilities include 125 sites with full hook-

ups, 192 with water and electric, 83 with no hookups, and 350 pull-throughs. Phone hookups are available. There are group sites, cabins, hot showers and sewage disposal. There's also a full-service store where RV supplies, groceries, ice and LP gas are available. Facilities include a recreation hall, a pavilion, two swimming pools, a wading pool, mini-golf and basket ball hoops. There are planned activities during the summer season.

## *Transportation*

Virginia Beach is served by **Norfolk International Airport**, ☎ 757-857-3351, a 20-minute drive from the oceanfront. Major airlines offer daily service connecting to all major hubs and most major cities in the US and overseas.

Other airports within 40 minutes of Virginia Beach include **Newport News/Williamsburg International Airport**, ☎ 757-877-0221, and two private airports: **Chesapeake Regional Airport**, ☎ 757-421-9000, and **Hampton Roads Airport**, ☎ 757-465-0260.

**Amtrak**, ☎ 800-321-8684, serves Newport News, and offers Amtrak bus service from there to Virginia Beach at 19th Street and Pacific Avenue.

**Greyhound Lines Inc**. also services Virginia Beach from 1017 Laskin Road. ☎ 757-422-2998 for schedule information.

By road, Virginia Beach is accessed via **Interstates 64** and 264, and is linked to **Interstates 85** and **95** via **US Highways 13 and 17**.

## *Information*

**The Virginia Beach Department of Convention and Visitor Development** is at 2101 Parks Avenue, Suite 500, Virginia Beach, VA 23451, ☎ 757-437-4700. The Visitor Information Service number is 800-VA BEACH.

# The Historic Triangle

Jamestown, Williamsburg, and Yorktown – collectively known as Virginia's Historic Triangle – represent the beginning, middle and end of the Colonial period. Here the first English-speaking people settled and stayed, established a Colonial government, and fought the deciding battle in the War for Independence.

Just a few miles south of **Williamsburg** on the banks of the James River visitors will find the **Jamestown Settlement** and Jamestown Island

where, in 1607, a few brave men and boys founded the first permanent English settlement in the New World. East of Williamsburg, on the banks of the York River, lies **Yorktown**. It was there that George Washington accepted the surrender of General Lord Cornwallis in 1781, and thus won the nation's freedom.

Not only is the area steeped in history, it is also home to the Mid-Atlantic's largest water play park and a theme park with one of the largest roller coasters in the world. The shopping – from colonial crafts to outlet shopping – is among the best in the southeast.

Charles City County, to the west of Williamsburg, has nine plantations that tell the history of Colonial life and offer a wonderful driving tour along the James River.

# Williamsburg

A vacation in and around Williamsburg can find one strolling down the streets of a restored 18th-century village, shopping in a modern outlet mall, dining in an elegant restaurant, golfing one of the East Coast's best courses, or screaming upside down on one of the world's scariest roller coasters at Busch Gardens. The College of William and Mary, founded in 1693, is the second-oldest in the nation, and counts three presidents in its alumni, including Thomas Jefferson.

Other modern-day attractions make Williamsburg a timeless destination. Water Country USA is the Mid-Atlantic's largest water theme park. Busch Gardens is a wonderland of wild rides and live shows set on 360 acres. Outstanding shopping, dining, golf and entertainment help make a visit to Colonial Williamsburg unforgettable.

## *History*

Williamsburg, which celebrated its 300th anniversary in 1999, was one of America's first planned cities. Laid out in 1699 as model capital, the Middle Plantation took Jamestown's place as the seat of colonial government in 1699.

From 1699 to 1780, Williamsburg was the political, social and cultural capital of a land that stretched west to the Mississippi and north to the Great Lakes. It was at Williamsburg that patriots developed the fundamental concepts of the new republic – responsible leadership, public duty, self-government and freedom of conscience. And it was at Williamsburg that lesser-known men and women became distinctly American citizens.

A visit to the restored Colonial Williamsburg is a step back in time to a thriving 18th-century community. It's a theater of living history where

merchants sell their wares, craftspeople ply their trades and patriots sit in dark corners and whisper of revolution.

Restoration of the old capital began in 1926 when John D. Rockefeller Jr., inspired by the imagination of the Reverend W.A.R Goodwin of Bruton Parish Church, decided to return Williamsburg to its former glory. Rockefeller led, financially supported and remained closely involved in the project until his death in 1960.

Today, Colonial Williamsburg, with its authentic character and baroque town plan, is the pride of the nation. The historic area covers more 173 acres. All of the major public buildings have been faithfully reconstructed where they once stood. The Colonial Williamsburg of today is a bustling community of homes, shops, taverns and exhibition buildings along with a hundred gardens and greens. The Historic Area interprets the life and excitement of Colonial times.

## *Sights*

### *Colonial Williamsburg*

Perhaps nowhere else in America does the exciting story of the nation's past come to life more vividly than at Colonial Williamsburg, the restored capital of colonial Virginia.

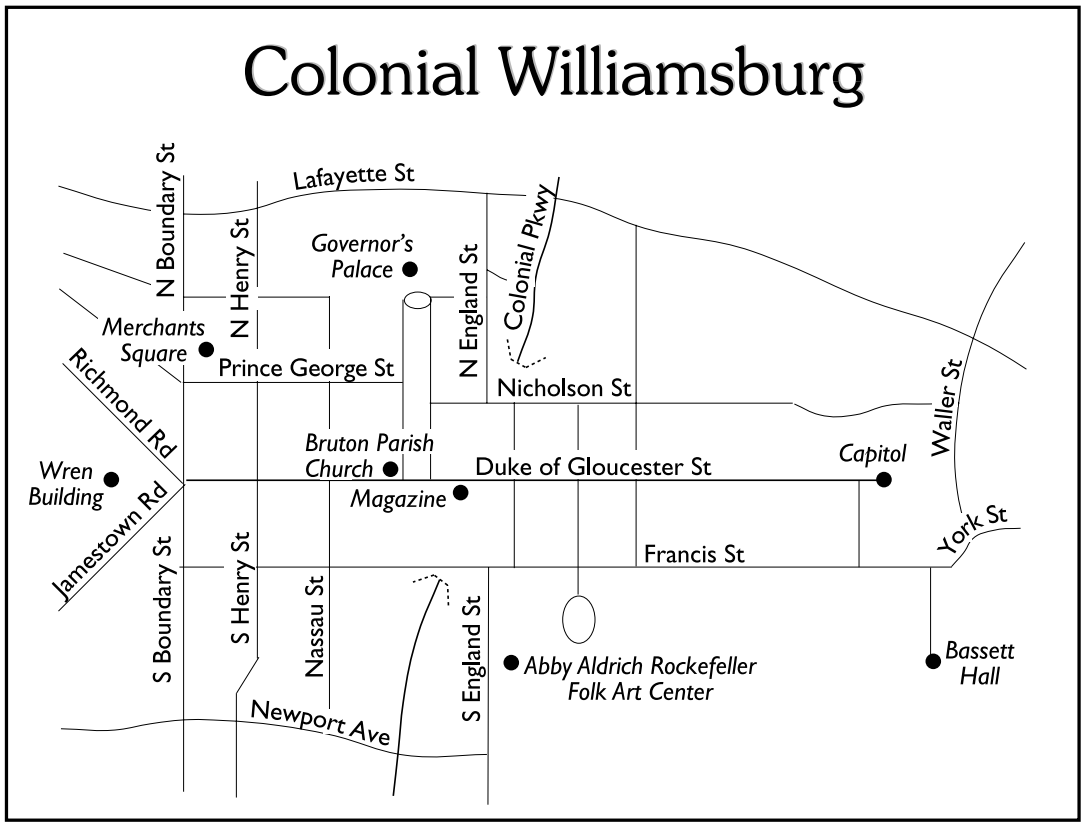
Inside exhibition buildings, historic interpreters use collections of 18th-century English and American furnishings and artifacts to teach social, cultural and political history.

Although the buildings and collections are among the finest in America, they cannot convey the full meaning of 18th-century Williamsburg. To portray the life and times of those early patriots, Colonial Williamsburg presents a program of living history that includes the practice of more than 40 colonial crafts and trades. These activities range from apothecary to wigmaking. The exhibitions are brought to life through a series of presentations and narrations by skilled interpreters and historians.

Among the programs are the participatory mock 18th-century trials conducted in the renovated Courthouse. Visitors help conduct the court's business, play the parts of defendants and plaintiffs, and sit as jurors. The cases are taken from the court records of the 1700s.

Market Square at the center of the town comes to life several days each week on "Market Days." Colonial hawkers at outdoor stalls offer colonial crafts, foods and wares and generally enliven the town's central green.

Other programs include first-person portrayals by African-American interpreters of the lives of slaves in a wealthy colonial household. They share with visitors the black perspective on the master of the house and the great questions of the Revolution.




The Visitor Center is located on the Colonial Parkway at VA 132, ☎ 800-HISTORY, www.colonialwilliamsburg.org.

Daily and annual passes can be purchased at the Colonial Williamsburg Visitor Center, or ☎ 800-HISTORY.

❖ **VISITORS WITH DISABILITIES:** *Every effort is made to accommodate the disabled while still retaining the authenticity of colonial life. Many of the buildings have wheelchair access once inside, but be aware that most buildings are reached via steps. The Visitor Center can provide a detailed listing of accessible buildings. Wheelchair ramps may be made available with advance notice. Wheelchair parking and rental is also available. A hands-on tour of several exhibits may be arranged for the visually impaired. Sign language tours are also available with advance notice. ☎ 800-HISTORY.*

## *The Exhibition Buildings*

**The Capitol**, at the east end of Duke of Gloucester Street, is where the House of Burgesses met from 1704 until 1779. It is also the scene of Patrick Henry's stirring speech against the Stamp Act.

**The Public Gaol**, to the north of the Capitol across Nicholson Street, is where debtors, criminals and pirates – including Blackbeard's crew – were imprisoned.

**The Raleigh Tavern**, on Duke of Gloucester Street, was a frequent meeting place for Thomas Jefferson, Patrick Henry and many other Revolutionary patriots. The tavern was one of the capital's most popular social centers.

**The Governor's Palace**, at the north end of Palace Green, was the official residence of the Royal Governor of Virginia. The palace, one of the most elegant in colonial America, is set in 10 acres of restored ornamental gardens.

**The Peyton Randolph House**, built in 1716, was the home of the president of the first Continental Congress, and Rochambeau's headquarters prior to the Yorktown Campaign.

**The James Geddy House** was the home of a prominent silversmith. The property features a working brass, silver, bronze and pewter foundry.

**The Wythe House**, was the home of George Wythe, America's first law professor and teacher of Jefferson, Clay and Marshall. The house was also George Washington's headquarters before the siege of Yorktown, and Rochambeau's afterward. The house, outbuildings and gardens form a miniature plantation layout.

**The Magazine**, located on Duke of Gloucester Street, one block east of Palace Green, was the arsenal of the Virginia colony. The exhibit features a fine collection or arms.

**The Historic Trades** are living history exhibits where tradesmen and women dressed in authentic 18th-century costumes pursue many of the trades that were practiced in Colonial Williamsburg. These include an apothecary, printer, bookbinder, silversmith, wigmaker, shoemaker, blacksmith, harnessmaker, cabinetmaker, miller, milliner, gunsmith, wheelwright, cook, cooper and carpenter.

**The Public Hospital** is a faithful reconstruction of the first public institution in the English colonies devoted exclusively to the treatment of mental illness.

**The Bruton Parish Church**, on Duke of Gloucester Street, is one of America's oldest Episcopal churches, in continuous use since 1715. Organ recitals are given July through September and in December on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday; in January and February on Saturdays; and during the other months on Tuesday and Saturday. The church is open daily.

**The Courthouse**, on Duke of Gloucester Street, east of Palace Green, is where the county and city business was conducted from 1770 until 1932. The interior has been carefully restored to its original appearance. Visitors participate in scheduled re-enactments of court sessions.

**The Play Booth Theater** is an open-air theater where scenes from 18th-century plays are acted out. The theater is open to all Colonial Williamsburg ticket holders.

## *Museums*

**The Abby Aldridge Rockefeller Folk Art Center**, a half-block southeast of the old section on York Street, houses an outstanding collection of American folk art. Items in the collection were created by artists not trained in studio techniques, but who faithfully recorded the aspects of everyday life through paintings, sculpture, needlework, ceramics, toys and other media.

**The DeWitt Wallace Gallery** is a modern museum adjoining the public hospital. The gallery features exhibits, lectures, films and related programs that depict English and American decorative arts made and used in Williamsburg and other colonies during the 17th, 18th and early 19th centuries.

## *Plantations*

**The Berkeley Plantation**, located on Route 5 about 30 miles west of Colonial Williamsburg, is the site of the first official Thanksgiving in 1619. It is also the birthplace of Benjamin Harrison, a signer of the Declaration of Independence and a three-time governor of Virginia, and the ancestral home of two American presidents. The plantation features magnificent boxwood gardens and fine dining. It is open daily. ☎ 804-829-6018 for information.

**Colonial Williamsburg's Carter's Grove**, located seven miles to the southeast of Colonial Williamsburg off Route 60, once was the property of one of Virginia's wealthiest planters. Today, four centuries of history come alive here as you tour the riverfront mansion, set on a bluff 80 feet above the James River. The site is also the location of the Winthrop Rockefeller Archaeology Museum and the partially reconstructed Wolstenholme Towne, a settlement founded in 1619 and abandoned by 1650. ☎ 800-HISTORY.

**The Evelynton Plantation**, on Route 5, about 25 miles west of Williamsburg, was originally a part of the Westover Plantation, and named for William Byrd's daughter Evelyn. From 1847, the plantation was home to the Ruffin family. Edmund Ruffin fired the first shot of the Civil War and committed suicide at the end of the war rather than spend his declining under the rule of the federal government. Beautifully appointed, the house features formal gardens with exquisite flowers, shrubs and trees. The house is open daily except Thanksgiving and Christmas. ☎ 800-473-5075.

**Sherwood Forest Plantation**, on Route 5, 25 miles west of Williamsburg, was purchased by John Tyler, 10th president of the United

States, in 1842 as his retirement home. It's currently owned by Tyler's grandson, Harrison Ruffin Tyler and his family. At 301 feet long, it is the longest frame house in America. The formal rooms have Greek Revival architecture, and the house is decorated with the family's heirlooms. Open daily except Thanksgiving and Christmas. ☎ 804-829-5377.

**The Shirley Plantation**, settled in 1613, was the home of the Hill-Carter family for 11 generations. The beautiful 18th-century mansion features a famous hanging staircase, a unique Queen Anne forecourt, original paintings, furniture and silver. The plantation is on Route 5, about 40 miles west of Williamsburg, and is open daily except Thanksgiving and Christmas. ☎ 800-232-1613 or visit www.shirley-plantation.com.

## *Other Sights*

**The College of William and Mary**, at the west end of Duke of Gloucester Street, was constructed in 1693. It is America's second oldest college – only Harvard is older. William and Mary initiated the honor system and the elective system of studies. The Phi Beta Kappa Society was founded there in 1776.

**The Wren Building**, on the campus of William and Mary, is the oldest academic building in America. It was designed by the famed English architect Sir Christopher Wren and built in 1695.

**The Williamsburg Pottery Factory** sells pottery, furniture, china, glass, stemware, wines, cheeses, plants and many unique items. The Pottery has been family-owned for 50 years, when Jimmy Maloney first set up a kiln on the side of the road. There are now more than 50 factory outlets on more than 200 acres. The Pottery is open daily except Christmas, and is located on Richmond Road (Route 60 West), about seven miles west of Williamsburg. For information and a brochure, ☎ 757-564-3326.

**The Candle Factory** has an observation booth where visitors may watch candles and soap being made. Founded in 1964 as a family business called the Williamsburg Soap & Candle Company, the factory now produces six million candles a year. Shoppers will find plenty of bargains, including factory seconds at reduced prices. The Candle Factory Restaurant serves breakfast and lunch. Located at 7521 Richmond Road, six miles west of Williamsburg. Open daily except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. ☎ 757-564-3354 or visit www.wmbg.com/candles.

**The Williamsburg Winery**, located in an 18th-century-style winery building some two miles from the restored area at 5800 Wessex Hundred, is surrounded by more than 50 acres of vineyards. Professional guides conduct tours through the underground barrel cellars and explain the wine-making process. You can try a taste of five different wines in the shop, or have lunch in the Gabriel Archer Tavern. The Winery is open year-round, except January 15 through February 15. ☎ 804-229-0999.

**America's Railroads** is an exhibit of more than 4,000 square feet of trail layouts and scenic dioramas. Hands-on exhibits, model vehicles and a gift shop with railroad memorabilia. Located in the Village Shops at Kingsmill, Route 60 East. ☎ 757-220-8725.

### *Theme Parks*

**Water Country USA** is the Mid-Atlantic's largest water play park. Located on 40 acres, Water Country offers water rides, slides, pools, shows, and a special children's area. You can take a nostalgic trip back to the 1960s surfing scene with a ride on the Malibu Pipeline, lunch at Daddy-O's, and shopping at W.C. Duds surf shop. The park is open from early May through mid-September. ☎ 757-253-3350 or visit www.watercountryusa.com.

**Busch Gardens Williamsburg**, three miles east of Williamsburg, is a European-themed park nestled on 360 acres of Virginia woodland. Highlights are Alpengeist, one of the top roller coasters in the country, and the new Apollo's Chariot, with more vertical drops than any other steel roller-coaster in the world. There are 40 more thrilling rides, a cornucopia of food, entertainment, shops and exhibits are featured in nine authentically detailed 17th-century hamlets. These include Banbury Cross and Hastings from England, Heathersdown from Scotland, Aquitaine from France, Rhinefeld and Oktoberfest from Germany, San Marco and Festa Italia from Italy and New France from Canada. In-between the action, catch a live show or a 4-D film. The park is closed during the winter months. For operating hours, admission prices and a comprehensive brochure, ☎ 757-253-3350 or 800-343-7946, or visit www.buschgardens.com.

## *Annual Events*

Each year, Colonial Williamsburg hosts a full schedule of interesting and themed events. For a full calendar, ☎ 800-HISTORY.

**Williamsburg Antiques Forum** presents "Art & Mysterie." The event, held early in February, features lectures, discussions and workshops that explore the 18th-century artisan's contributions to the design and production of goods. ☎ 800-603-0948.

**Historic Garden Week** in April open Williamsburg's historic homes to the public, ☎ 804-644-7776.

**Independence Day Celebration** in Williamsburg features fifes and drums, a reading the Declaration of Independence, fireworks and more. ☎ 800-HISTORY.

**Traditional Christmas Events** in Colonial Williamsburg include Illumination Flights over the restored area, the lighting of the Christmas Tree, and the Grand Illumination of the City. The Grand Illumination is a gala opening the holiday season in Colonial Williamsburg. The gala in-

cludes fife and drum tattoos, musket and artillery salutes, caroling, dancing, music and the illumination of buildings. ☎ 800-HISTORY.

## *Entertainment*

**A Walk Through Time** is a moonlight lantern tour through Williamsburg that portrays the diverse culture of Revolutionary Virginia. Daily tours depart from in front of the Williamsburg Theatre. ☎ 757-229-7193.

**The Ghosts of Williamsburg Tour** blends history with scary folklore on a candlelit walking tour of Williamsburg's Historic Area. The tour is based on "The Ghosts of Williamsburg," by L.B. Taylor, and features a certified historical interpreter. Tours are offered year-round. Tickets are sold at the Williamsburg Attraction Center in Prime Outlets at Williamsburg. ☎ 757-565-4821.

**The Liberty Theatre** performs musicals in the Marriott Hotel - Williamsburg at 50 Kingsmill Road. The hotel's restaurant offers preshow dinner packages. ☎ 800-483-2238.

**The Music Theatre of Williamsburg**, formerly the Old Dominion Opry, presents a two-hour musical revue of sounds from the 1940s through the present. Located in a brand-new, state-of-the-art Colonial-style theater at 7575 Richmond Road, exit 231A, off I-64. Performances year-round. ☎ 888-687-4220.

**Mystery Dinner Playhouse** is a dinner comedy in which the audience participates in solving the murder mystery. Performs weekly, year-round. Located in the Ramada Inn Central Williamsburg at 5351 Richmond Road. ☎ 888-471-4802.

**Williamsburg Crossing Cinemas**, in Williamsburg Crossing Shopping Center, is a complex of seven state-of-the-art theatres. Call for information and schedules. ☎ 757-253-2299.

**At Rosie Rumpe's Regal Dumpe** you become part of a bawdy 16th-century London pub. Sing along and enjoy a huge feast in the tradition of King Henry VIII. Located in the Quality Inn Historic, 1402 Richmond Road. ☎ 888-767-9767 or visit www.rosierumpes.com.

**Student and Haunted Dinner Theaters** are interactive musical dinner theaters that perform from the spring through October. Located at 5363 Richmond Road. ☎ 888-426-3746.

**The Historic Williamsburg Theatre** in Merchant's Square was built by Rockefeller at the same time as Radio City Music Hall. The theater hosts live productions, including magic shows, as well as fine arts cinema and the best from Hollywood. ☎ 757-229-1475.

**The Williamsburg Players** is the area's oldest continuous community theater. Professional-quality theater performed at 200 Hubbard Lane, where every seat has a great view of the stage. Season runs September through June. ☎ 757-229-0431.

# Recreation

## Golf

Williamsburg boasts some of the finest golfing on the East Coast, with a dozen beautiful courses, several of them just a few years old. For more information, call The Williamsburg Area Golf Association toll-free at ☎ 888-2GOLFWB.

**Colonial Golf Course** was named one of the top 10 new courses in 1996 by *Golf Magazine*. This championship course has five sets of tees, the Colonial Golf Academy, three-hole practice course, indoor and outdoor practice areas, and a full-service club house and restaurant. Located at 8285 Diascund Road. ☎ 757-566-1600.

**Colonial Williamsburg: The Golden Horseshoe Gold and Green Courses**, designed by Robert Trent Jones, and his son, Rees, have been rated among the "Best of the Best" by *Golf Magazine*. Golf equipment and accessories are available in both pro shops. The resident professional offers a full-service, year-round program. Located at 401 South England Street. ☎ 800-HISTORY.

**Ford's Colony Country Club** features rolling hills, lush woodlands and lots of water on its 54-hole course designed by award-winning architect Don Maples. The course is the home of the Virginia State Open, and is consistently ranked as one of the top courses in Virginia. There is a fitness center, pro shop, banquet facilities, an award-winning wine cellar, and The Dining Room, a five-star restaurant. Located on Longhill Road, three miles west of Williamsburg. ☎ 757-258-4100.

**Kingsmill Resort** offers four golf courses overlooking the James River: the 18-hole River Course, home of the Anheuser-Busch Classic on the PGA Tour; the 18-hole Plantation Course, designed by Arnold Palmer; the par-3 Bray Links; and the newest option, the Woods Course. Kingsmill also offers 13 day tennis courts and two Deco Turf all-weather courts. Located on Kingsmill Road off Route 60. ☎ 757-253-3906.

**Kiskiack Golf Club** is Williamsburg's newest championship golf club, set on scenic rolling hills and lakes. There is a large driving range, sheltered hitting stations, practice putting green, and bunkered chipping area. Located at exit 231B off I-64. ☎ 800-989-4728.

**Legends at Stonehouse** opened by the Legends Group of South Carolina in 1996 to rave reviews. The design utilizes the natural terrain of forests, creeks, ravines and meadows. The course can accommodate all

levels of play. Located at exit 227 off I-64, on State Highway 30. ☎ 888-VA-LEGENDS.

**Williamsburg National Golf Club** is a Nicklaus-designed course, voted one of the 10 best courses in Virginia by *Golf Digest.* There are junior and twilight rates, and rental clubs are available. Located at 3700 Centerville Road. ☎ 800-826-5732 or visit www.wngc.com.

### *Tennis*

Colonial Williamsburg has eight tennis courts adjacent to the east lawn of the Williamsburg Inn. The complex features a resident tennis pro to assist beginners and offer helpful advice. There are two more courts at the Williamsburg Woodlands. Call ☎ 800-HISTORY.

### *Parks & Beaches*

**The Colonial National Historic Park** offers a number of locations for fishing, biking, hiking and picnicking from Jamestown to Yorktown along the Colonial Parkway. ☎ 757-898-3400.

**The York River State Park**, east of Croaker on the York River, is known for its rare and delicate estuarine environment, where fresh and saltwater meet to create a habitat rich in marine and plant life. The visitor Center, and the activities within the park, focus on the history, use and preservation of the York River and its marshes. Popular activities at the park include hiking, boating, fishing and picnicking. Facilities include a nature trail, a fitness trail, picnic areas, a playground for the children and a shelter. ☎ 757-566-3036.

## *Shopping*

Shopping in and around Williamsburg is as diverse as it gets. Within Colonial Williamsburg you can purchase the 18th-century-style items that you see being made there by artisans. Outside the historic district, outlet shopping malls and the famous Williamsburg Pottery have made the area a shopping mecca for bargain-hunters.

Most of the goods you will see being made in **Colonial Williamsburg** are for sale. Nine of the shops have been restored to recreate the world as it was back in Colonial times, and stepping into any one of them is to walk through a portal into the past where merchants of a bygone age do their best to fulfill your every wish.

The stores contain an assortment of merchandise typical of the 18th century. Three cornered hats, jewelry, tea services, pottery and old maps and prints are only a few of the goodies found in the quaint little shops and stores.

Each shop has a history all its own. Jewelers at the Golden Ball once fashioned a pair of earrings for George Washington's daughter. The Greenhow Store sold china to Patrick Henry.

In the Crafthouses you can find a variety of beautiful reproduction furnishings, flatware, bedding and unique gifts for all occasions.

Step out of the 18th and into the 21st century at **Merchants Square**, a Colonial-revival village of 40 shops and restaurants located just steps from Colonial Williamsburg. Here you'll find a wide variety of fine goods, including fashions, Christmas decorations, candles, books, leather goods and handmade candies.

Travel west from Williamsburg on Richmond Road and you'll find **The Prime Outlets** of more than 80 designer stores, **Patriot Plaza Premium Outlets**, **The Williamsburg Outlet Mall**, **Basketville of Williamsburg**, and **The Williamsburg Pottery Factory**, a marketplace of several hundred acres that's become a phenomenon and destination in itself.

## *Dining*

**The Aberdeen Barn**, 1601 Richmond Road, ☎ 757-229-6661, is open for dinner and is accessible to the handicapped. Specialties are roast prime rib, seafood and barbecue baby-back ribs. There's also a bar and an open-hearth grill.

**Berret's Seafood Restaurant & Raw Bar**, 199 S. Boundary Street, ☎ 757-253-1847, is open for lunch and dinner and is accessible to the handicapped. The restaurant offers a regional American menu, with specialties from the waters of the Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic. There is a raw bar, outdoor dining and a variety of Virginia wines and microbrewed beers available.

**Bray Dining Room**, at Kingsmill Resort & Conference Center in James City County, ☎ 757-253-3900, serves regional foods in a formal setting overlooking the James River.

**Captain George's Seafood Buffet**, 5363 Richmond Road, ☎ 757-565-2323, is open for dinner and is famous for its all-you-can-eat buffet, with more than 70 items. You can dine by the 12-foot waterfall and the 300-foot stream.

**Christiana Campbell's Tavern**, on Wallar Street, ☎ 757-229-2141 or 800-HISTORY, is open for and dinner and is within Colonial Williamsburg. The restaurant features period decor with antique and reproduction furnishings, and serves seafood, mixing contemporary and 18th-century dishes.

**The Dining Room at Ford's Colony Country Club**, 240 Ford's Colony Drive, ☎ 757-258-4100, is open for dinner and is one of the area's fin-

est and most elegant restaurants. Specialties include game and seafood, and there is usually one four-course meal on the menu. There is an up-close view of the kitchen, a wine cellar, a bar and traditional decor with Georgian-style paneling, beamed ceilings and a fireplace.

**Doraldo's**, 1915 Pocahontas Trail, ☎ 757-220-0795, is located in the Village Shops at Kingsmill, serving pizzas, pasta and other Italian dishes.

**The Dynasty Chinese Restaurant**, 1621 Richmond Road, ☎ 757-220-8888, is open for lunch and dinner and is accessible to the handicapped. Specialties of the house include steamed whole fish, General Tsao's chicken and Peking duck. There is outdoor dining, and a karaoke bar.

**The Jefferson Restaurant**, 1453 Richmond Road, ☎ 757-229-2296, is open for dinner and serves regional favorites including Virginia peanut soup, Southern fried chicken, Virginia ham, stuffed pork chops, as well as steak, fresh seafood and Italian dishes.

**Josiah Chowning's Tavern**, on Duke of Gloucester Street, ☎ 757-229-2141 or 800-HISTORY, is open for continental breakfast, lunch and dinner and is operated by Colonial Williamsburg. Specialties are Brunswick stew and prime rib. The restaurant features an 18th-century tavern atmosphere, a vine-covered garden, strolling musicians and a Tap Room with a variety of draft beers. No reservations are taken.

**The King's Arms Tavern** on Duke of Gloucester Street, ☎ 757-229-2141 or 800-HISTORY, is open for lunch and dinner within Colonial Williamsburg. The restaurant offers a Colonial American menu, with specialties like game pie, peanut soup, Virginia ham, and filet mignon stuffed with oysters. The restaurant is set in a restored 18th-century tavern with Colonial decor and balladeers. Reservations are recommended.

**Le Yaca**, at Kingsmill on Route 60, ☎ 757-220-3616, is open for lunch and dinner and is accessible to the handicapped. It serves Country French cuisine, with several complete fixed-priced menus to choose from. Specialties include onion soup, lamb and beef tenderloin, open-spit leg of lamb and chocolate marquis.

**Nawab Indian Cuisine**, 204 Monticello Avenue, ☎ 757-565-3200, is a family-owned chain that offers wonderful buffets and spicy dishes to order. Specializes in curries and tandoori.

**Pierce's Pitt Bar-B-Que**, 447 E. Rochambeau Drive, ☎ 757-565-2955, is famous for its open-pit barbecue.

**The Regency Room**, at the Williamsburg Inn in Colonial Williamsburg, ☎ 757-229-2141 or 800-447-8679, is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner and is accessible to the handicapped. The elegant, formal restaurant offers a continental menu, served on white tablecloths with fresh flowers and silver. Specialties include Caesar salad tossed table-side, plenty of seafood, veal and their own splendid desserts and pastries.

**The Seafare of Williamsburg**, 1632 Richmond Road, ☎ 757-229-0099, is open for dinner and is accessible to the handicapped. Specialties include seafood, steak and veal, served in style by tuxedoed waiters. There is a nautical decor, a salad bar and warm rum bread to start the meal.

**Shields Tavern**, on Duke of Gloucester Street in Colonial Williamsburg, ☎ 757-229-2141 or 800-HISTORY, is open for lunch, dinner, and Sunday brunch. The seasonal menu reflects the harvest of local farms, rivers and the Chesapeake Bay. The restaurant is a restored Colonial tavern built in 1745 and features balladeers at dinner. Garden seating is available, weather permitting.

**The Trellis Restaurant**, on Duke of Gloucester Street in Merchant's Square, ☎ 757-229-8610, is open for lunch and dinner. Specialties of the house include fresh seafood and decadent chocolate desserts.

**The Whaling Company**, 494 McLaws Circle, ☎ 757-229-0275, is open for lunch and dinner. House specialties include fresh seafood, choice steaks and chicken. The dress is casual, and reservations are recommended.

**The Yorkshire Steak & Seafood House**, 700 York Street, ☎ 757-229-9790, is open for lunch and dinner. Specialties are fresh seafood, prime rib and beef and seafood shish-kabob.



# *Accommodations*

Most establishments offer both handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms, but be sure to ask when making reservations.

## *Hotels & Motels*

**Colonial Williamsburg's Colonial Houses**, 136 East Francis Street in the Historic District, ☎ 800-HISTORY, offer 80 rooms within a number of Colonial houses and taverns. Facilities and services include dining privileges at the Williamsburg Inn, free airport transportation and recreational facilities, also available at the Colonial Williamsburg Inn. $$$

**Courtyard By Marriott**, 470 McLaws Circle, ☎ 800-321-2211, has 151 rooms and is located in a business park just off Route 60. The hotel features handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms, a full-service restaurant, a swimming pool, several meeting rooms, and an exercise room. $$-$$$

**Days Inn East**, 201 Water Country Parkway, ☎ 800-635-5366, is an upscale hotel with 202 rooms. There are handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms, a full-service restaurant, a swimming pool, exercise room, sand volleyball court, jogging trail and picnic area. $-$$

**Fort MaGruder Inn & Conference Center**, on Route 60, ☎ 800-582-1010, has 303 rooms and is built around an original redoubt from the

Civil War. The hotel features handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms, a full-service restaurant, indoor and outdoor swimming pools, lighted tennis courts, golf privileges, and an exercise room, convention facilities, and several meeting rooms. $$-$$$

**Holiday Inn Downtown and Holidome**, 814 Capitol Landing Road, ☎ 800-368-0200, has 137 rooms with a Colonial decor. The hotel features handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms, a full-service restaurant, golf privileges, an exercise room, convention facilities, and several meeting rooms. The 10,000 square foot Holidome has in indoor heated pool, shuffleboard, putting green, whirlpool, exercise room and sauna, and is handicapped-accessible. $-$$$

**Kingsmill Resort**, 1010 Kingsmill Road, ☎ 800-832-5665, is a large resort complex with 405 rooms. The hotel offers handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms and a range of services and facilities that include golf and tennis, two 18-hole golf courses, marina privileges, meeting rooms, a spa with an exercise instructor, and indoor and outdoor pools. There are complimentary shuttles to Colonial Williamsburg and Busch Gardens. $$$

**The Marriott Hotel-Williamsburg**, 50 Kingsmill Road, ☎ 800-442-3654, has 295 rooms. The hotel features handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms, a full-service restaurant, heated indoor/outdoor pool, health club, tennis courts, sauna, whirlpool, convention facilities, a shopping arcade, tennis courts, several meeting rooms, entertainment and dancing. $$$

**Quality Inn Outlet Mall**, 6493 Richmond Road, ☎ 800-524-1443, has 128 rooms and is adjacent to the Williamsburg Outlet Mall. There is a complimentary continental breakfast, full-service restaurant, and an outdoor pool. $$

**Williamsburg Hospitality House**, 415 Richmond Road, ☎ 800-932-9192, has 297 rooms and suites, located two blocks from the Historic Area. There are handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms, two restaurants, a swimming pool, golf privileges, several meeting rooms and a gift shop. There is entertainment and dancing, complimentary afternoon tea, and senior citizen discounts. $$-$$$

**Colonial Williamsburg Inn**, 136 Francis Street in the Historic Area, ☎ 800-HISTORY, is a small luxury hotel with 140 suites. The hotel features handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms, a restaurant, a swimming pool with a lifeguard and poolside service, an exercise room, tennis courts, golf, lawn games, several meeting rooms and gift shop. It is furnished in the style of a country estate, and features spacious lounges and a shaded terrace. $$$

**Colonial Williamsburg Lodge**, 310 S. England Street, ☎ 800-HISTORY, has 315 rooms, with efficiencies available. The hotel is decorated with American folk art and features handicapped-accessible and

non-smoking rooms, a restaurant, a swimming pool with poolside service and a lifeguard, a beauty shop, tennis courts, golf, several meeting rooms and gift shop. $$$

**Williamsburg Woodlands**, 102 Visitor Center Drive, ☎ 800-HISTORY, offers 315 suites in a casual retreat hotel on 44 wooded acres adjacent to the Historic Area. There are two outdoor pools, golf, miniature golf, badminton, and a restaurant. $$-$$$

## *Bed & Breakfasts / Inns*

There are nearly two dozen inns, bed & breakfasts and guest homes to choose from in the Williamsburg area, offering an array of options from the casual to the elegant. Here is just a sampling.

**Holland's Lodge B&B**, 601 Richmond Road, ☎ 800-253-8253, has five rooms in a family-owned Colonial Revival home. $$

**Legacy of Williamsburg B&B Inn**, 930 Jamestown Road, ☎ 800-962-4722, offers a choice of four rooms and two suites in a contemporary inn with period antiques and furnishings, including six fireplaces and canopy beds. Amenities include a sitting room and a full breakfast. $$$

**Liberty Rose B&B Inn**, 1022 Jamestown Road, ☎ 800-545-1825, offers four rooms in a romantic hilltop estate. Full breakfast served at "tables for two" on the morning porch. There are gardens, courtyards, a grand piano and fireplaces. $$$

**Warr Hill Inn**, 4560 Long Hill Road, ☎ 800-743-0248, offers a choice of five rooms and two suites in a large country manor, built in 1969 under the guidance of a Colonial Williamsburg architect. A full breakfast is included in the rate. $$-$$$

**Williamsburg Sampler B&B Inn**, 922 Jamestown Road, ☎ 800-722-1169, has four rooms located in a plantation-style house with Colonial-style furnishings. A full breakfast is included. $$$

## *Camping*

Opportunities for camping in the Williamsburg area are many and diverse. The following is only a sampling of what's to be found within a few miles of the Colonial Parkway.

**Colonial Campgrounds**, 4712 Lightfoot Road, ☎ 800-336-2734, is a fairly large campground with about 200 grassy and semi-wooded sites; most are pull-throughs and have hookups. Facilities include tenting, flush toilets, hot showers, sewage disposal, a laundry, public telephone and a store where you can obtain LP gas, RV supplies, ice and groceries. There is a recreation room, a pavilion, coin-operated games, a swimming pool, lawn games and a playground.

**Jamestown Beach Campsites** is located on the James River near Jamestown Settlement, ☎ 800-446-9228 or 757-229-7609. This large, wooded campground has nearly 900 sites, about 100 with full hookups. There is a camp store, game room, and pavilion. Swimming, boating and fishing on the shores of the James River.

**Williamsburg KOA Resort**, 5210 Lightfoot Road**,** ☎ 800-KOA-1733, has 150 open and shaded sites, most with full hookups. There are camping cabins, tenting, flush toilets, hot showers, sewage disposal, a laundry, public telephone and a store where one can obtain RV supplies, ice and groceries. There is a recreation room, a pavilion, a heated swimming pool, pond fishing, coin-operated games, lawn games, a playground and a shuttle to Colonial Williamsburg.

**Fair Oaks Campground at the Pottery**, 901 Lightfoot Road, ☎ 800-892-0320, has 450 grassy, open and wooded sites, most with hook-ups. There are camping cabins, tenting, flush toilets, hot showers, sewage disposal, a laundry, public telephone and a store with RV supplies, ice and groceries. There is a recreation room, a pavilion, two swimming pools, pond fishing, mini-golf, coin-operated games, hiking trails, lawn games and a playground.

## *Transportation*

Williamsburg is 150 miles south of Washington DC, and roughly midway between Richmond and Norfolk off Interstate 64.

**Newport News/Williamsburg Airport** is 20 minutes from downtown Williamsburg. **Richmond International Airport** and **Norfolk International Airport** are about 50 minutes from Williamsburg.

**AMTRAK**, ☎ 800-872-7245, offers direct service to Williamsburg from major East Coast cities. The station is at 468 N. Boundary Street.

**Greyhound Lines Inc.**, ☎ 800-231-2222, also serves the area at 468 N. Boundary Street.

**Relax & Ride Visitors Shuttle** serves the Williamsburg Pottery Factory, Colonial Williamsburg, Busch Gardens, Water Country USA and key points in between from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day, seven days a week. ☎ 757-220-1621 during business hours, or 757-259-4111 after hours and on weekends.

Ground transportation is available through Carey & VIP Celebrity Limousines at ☎ 757-220-1616; Groome Transportation at ☎ 757-857-1231; **the Norfolk Airport Shuffle**, ☎ 804-877-9477; and the **Williamsburg Limousine Service**, ☎ 804-877-0279. Rental cars are also easily available at all three airports.

## *Information*

For information regarding the Historic Triangle area, contact the **Williamsburg Area Convention & Visitors Bureau**, 201 Penniman Road, Williamsburg, VA 23185. ☎ 757-253-0192 or 800-368-6511, or visit www.visitwilliamsburg.com.

For information on **Colonial Williamsburg**, call 800-HISTORY or visit www.colonialwilliamsburg.org.

For information regarding the Colonial Parkway, contact **The Colonial National Historic Park**, PO Box 210, Yorktown, VA 23690. ☎ 757-898-3400.

For information on lodging, contact the **Williamsburg Hotel and Motel Association**, ☎ 800-899-9462 or visit www.williamsburghotel.com.

# Charles City County

There's no city in Charles City County. Its unique location between the James and Chickahominy Rivers makes it one of those rare places where you can leave the stress and pressure of business life far behind, if only for a day.

## *History*

Residents of Charles City County have, for thousands of years, represented a diverse cross-section of humanity: Native Americans, English colonists, planters, slaves and free blacks. Presidents, signers of the Declaration of Independence, emancipators and fierce Confederate patriots, educators and agronomists were either born, lived or worked in Charles City County. Many of their descendants still live there today. The third-oldest organized black church and one of the first free black communities were located in the county.

The area's first inhabitants were the **Chickahominy Indians**, whose population numbered about 1,000 in 1607, but by 1705 had all but disappeared. At the beginning of the 20th century, tribe members made diligent efforts to renew the population, and today they are the largest tribe remaining in Virginia.

The English established Charles City County in 1616, and westward expansion began. Those early settlers, sustained by the burgeoning tobacco industry, prospered and grew rich, though at great cost to the Indians. Plantations and farms sprang up all along the James River. Against all odds, the gracious homes and mansions survived the rigors of the Revolu-

tionary War, the War of 1812 and the Civil War that devastated the area around Richmond and Petersburg to the west.

Today, many of the old stately homes are open for visitors. The county's extensive timberlands, tidal waters and thousands of acres of richly cultivated farmland are also preserved in this historic rural community.

As there is no city, the heart of Charles City County is its early 18th-century courthouse – a cultural link between past and present.

## *Sights*

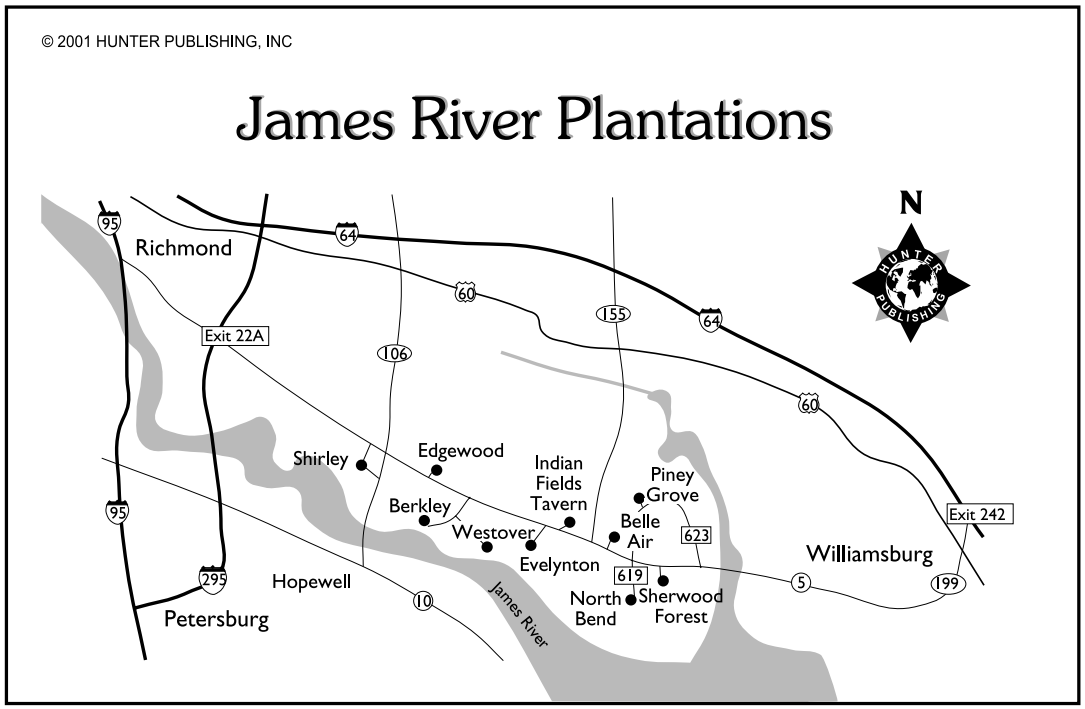
Take a trip along Route 5, one of America's most scenic highways, and you can visit nine historic plantation properties, spend the day savoring the lush gardens and historic houses, enjoy a wonderful meal, stay the night in one of the magnificent historic homes, rise to a hearty country breakfast and then do it all over again.

**Belle Air Plantation**, 11800 John Tyler Highway, is a 17th-century house built around 1670. Massive heartpine timbers and beams form the structure and much of the interior decoration of the mansion. The old home features one of America's finest Jacobean staircases and it overlooks acres of landscaped gardens and rolling farmlands. It hosts groups only and reservations are required. ☎ 804-829-2431.

**The Berkeley Plantation** is the site of the first official Thanksgiving in 1619. It is also the birthplace of Benjamin Harrison, a signer of the Declaration of Independence; of William Henry Harrison, the ninth president of the United States; and the ancestral home of Benjamin Harrison, the 23rd president. *Taps* was composed at Berkeley in 1862. Today, the plantation remains in its traditional state, furnished with authentic antiques and surrounded by boxwood gardens. The plantation is open daily. ☎ 804-829-6018 for information.

**The Evelynton Plantation**, 6701 John Tyler Highway, was originally a part of the Westover Plantation and named for William Byrd's daughter Evelyn. From 1847, the plantation has been home to the Ruffin family. The Georgian Revival manor house, designed by Duncan Lee, is part of a 2,500-acre farm still worked by the Ruffin family. The family's most famous member was Edmund Ruffin, who fired the first shot of the Civil War at Fort Sumter. The house, open daily, features period antiques, exquisite flower arrangements, magnificent formal gardens, a gift shop and a garden center. ☎ 804-829-5075.

**The North Bend Plantation**, 12200 Weyanoke Road, is a place where one can enjoy the hospitality of one of Virginia's oldest families. Built in 1819 for Sarah Harrison – the sister of the ninth US president, William Henry Harrison – Union General Philip "Little Phil" Sheridan made it his headquarters in 1864. Large rooms with private baths, beautifully appointed with period antiques, make North Bend a bed & breakfast with




a real difference. The grounds are open daily. For house tours and lodging, ☎ 804-829-5176, or visit www.ontheline.com/nbbb.

**Piney Grove at Southall's Plantation**, 16920 Southall Plantation Lane, was established in the 18th century as the country home of the prominent Southall family. The original 1790 portion is a rare survival of early Tidewater log architecture. The grounds also include Ashland (1835), Duck Church (1917) and Dower Quarter (1835). Today the Gordineer family offers historic bed & breakfast accommodations in the 1857 Ladysmith House. Guests will enjoy mint juleps, star-filled skies and candlelight breakfasts. The gardens and grounds are open daily for a self-guided tour and guided group house tours are available by appointment (Motorcoach tours welcome). ☎ 804-829-2480 or visit www.pineygrove.com.

**The Sherwood Forest Plantation**, 14501 John Tyler Highway, was the home of John Tyler after he served as president of the United States from 1841 until 1845. The house, built in 1730, has been lovingly restored and furnished with the possessions of President Tyler and his young bride, Julia Gardener. Still occupied by the president's grandson, the house's original outbuildings still stand among more than 80 varieties of trees and landscaped grounds. The museum shop features many items of presidential memorabilia and a variety of fine gifts. The plantation is open daily, except Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. ☎ 804-829-5377.

**The Shirley Plantation**, settled in 1613 by Sir Thomas West, is the oldest one in Virginia. The mansion, built by Edward Hill in 1723 for his daughter Elizabeth and her husband John Carter, is presently occupied by the 10th and 11th generations of the Hill-Carter family. Many original portraits, antiques and items of fine silver grace the magnificent old

house, characterized by its unique square flying staircase. The plantation is open daily from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m., closed Thanksgiving and Christmas days. The gift shop offers a wide variety of unusual decorative and gift items. The Shirley Plantation is at 501 Shirley Plantation Road, ☎ 800-232-1613; or visit www.shirleyplantation.com.

**Westover** is one of the most elegant Colonial plantations in Virginia. Built around 1730 by William Byrd II, the founder of Richmond and Petersburg, the mansion is widely known for its superb proportions and the finest early 18th-century gates in the country. The lawn, with its century-old tulip poplars, offers a commanding view of the James River. The gardens and outbuildings are open daily. The house is sometimes open during Historic Garden Week in April. Westover is at 7000 Westover Road. ☎ 804-829-2882.

**The Edgewood Plantation**, famous for its Gothic Revival architecture, features some 7,000 square feet of antiques, charm, romance and history. Built in 1849, the house has served as a church, a post office and as a signal post for the Confederacy – Cavalry General J.E.B. "Jeb" Stuart stopped at the plantation in 1862. Today, the old house proudly features cozy fireplaces, a free-standing double spiral staircase and magnificent formal gardens. The Edgewood Plantation is at 4800 John Tyler Highway, and is open upon request, for special events and for Garden Week in April. ☎ 804-829-2962 or 800-296-3343.

**Fort Pocahontas** at Wilson's Wharf, Route 5, on the James River, was the transportation center for local tobacco, and was seized as a Union fort during the Civil War. It was the site of one of the greatest victories won by a force of nearly all African Americans, the US Colored Troops. Restoration and archeological work is being conducted at the fort, which is privately owned. An annual re-enactment is held in May, and tours are offered on Saturdays, June through October. ☎ 804-829-5377.

## *Recreation*

Charles City County has four parks offering playing fields, bike trails and picnic shelters. They include the **Harrison Park** (Wayside Road), the **Recreation Center** (Route 612), **Hillside Park** (Route 664) and the **Lawrence Lewis Jr. Park** on Wilcox Wharf Road, which has a fishing pier, hiking trails and observation decks.

**The Chickahominy Recreational and Wildlife Management Area**, on Wilcox Neck Road (Route 623), consists of 5,300 acres on the Chickahominy River. It is open to the public for hunting, boating, fishing, hikng and nature study. There is a public boat ramp on Morris Creek.

## *Annual Events*

The James River Plantations collectively hold various events and throughout the year.

**African-American Folk Art Exhibit and Tour**, Piney Grove at Southall's Plantation, is held the first Saturday in February, ☎ 804-829-2480 or www.pineygrove.com.

**James River Plantations Garden Week**. House tours are held the last full week in April, ☎ 804-644-7776 or www.jamesriverplantations.com.

**Fort Pocahontas Re-Enactment**, held at Wilson's Wharf in May, commemorates one of the greatest victories of a Union African-American troop. ☎ 804-829-5377.

**Art and Wine Festival** takes place at Shirley Plantation in mid-September.

**The Charles City County Fair** is held in mid-September with arts and crafts competitions, recipe contests, carnival rides and a midway. ☎ 804-829-9241.

**Chickahominy Fall Festival & Pow-wow** is held by the Chickahominy tribe on the fourth weekend in September, features Native American dancing, music, food, and crafts. ☎ 804-829-2186 or 804-829-6333. It's free and open to the public.

**The Feast and The Fury** is a Civil War re-enactment held the second weekend in October at Shirley Plantation. ☎ 804-829-5121.

**Spirits of the James River Plantations** is held the last two Saturdays in October. ☎ 804-829-2480.

**The First Official Thanksgiving** at Berkeley Plantation features a play re-enacting the historic event. ☎ 804-829-6018 for ticket information.

**Christmas Parade** is held the day after Thanksgiving featuring bands, floats and contests. ☎ 804-829-9227.

**Progressive Plantation Candlelight Tour** includes dinner and wine-tasting in mid-December. ☎ 804-704-5423.

**Christmas in Plantation Country** is held the last two weeks in December at the James River Plantations. ☎ 804-829-6684 or visit www.jamesriverplantations.com.

## *Dining*

**The Coach House Tavern**, 12602 Harrison Landing Road, is a critically acclaimed restaurant housed in a restored outbuilding on the

grounds of the Berkeley Plantation – just a hundred yards from the manor house where the first 10 US presidents dined with the Harrisons. Open for lunch daily, dinner on Friday and Saturday by appointment. Offers elegant candlelit dining overlooking the magnificent English gardens. ☎ 804-829-6003 for information and reservations.

**The Indian Fields Tavern**, 9220 John Tyler Highway, is a turn-of-the-century farmhouse which has been turned into one of Charles City County's most exciting and acclaimed restaurants. Indian Fields is open for lunch and dinner and lets you enjoy the region's finest foods while surrounded by some of Virginia's most beautiful countryside. ☎ 804-829-5004 for information and reservations.

## *Accommodations*

The Edgewood, North Bend, and Piney Grove plantations, listed under *Sights,* all offer accommodations. In addition, there are bed & breakfasts and a marina/motel in the county.

Most establishments offer both handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms, but be sure to ask when making reservations.

### *Hotels & Motels*

**River's Rest Motel & Marina**, 9100 Wilcox Neck Road, ☎ 804-829-2753, has 20 rooms, some with water views of the Chickahominy River. There are boat slips, canoe rentals, and a restaurant serving breakfast, lunch and dinner. Close to all the plantations. $

### *Bed & Breakfasts / Inns*

**Orange Hill Bed & Breakfast**, 18401 The Glebe Lane, ☎ 804-829-6463.

**Red Hill Bed & Breakfast**, 7500 John Tyler Memorial Highway, ☎ 804-829-6045.

## *Information*

**Charles City County Department of Development**, PO Box 66, Charles City, VA 23030, ☎ 804-829-9217.

# Jamestown & Yorktown

The Colonial National Historical Park incorporates two of America's most historic sites, Jamestown and Yorktown. Located on the Virginia peninsula between the York and James rivers, each site has its own story to tell. They are connecting stories, for the events that took place at

Jamestown led inevitably to those at Yorktown. The Colonial Parkway, 23 miles of scenic roadway that links the two sites, makes it easy to follow the sequence of events from the nation's Colonial beginnings at Jamestown to their conclusion with the surrender of General Cornwallis at the Battle of Yorktown. The Colonial Parkway is, in itself, well worth a visit. It's a modern route that provides access to many other historic spots in this section of Virginia's Tidewater, while showing off the area's spectacular natural beauty.

## *Jamestown, The Original Site*

Jamestown lies at the western end of the Colonial Parkway. The town itself no longer exists. Even so, it's not difficult to imagine life as it must have been during those first days.

It was on May 13, 1607, that 104 Englishmen and boys stepped ashore on the banks of the James River, established the first permanent English-speaking settlement in North America, and so set in motion a series of events that would change the world. During its brief lifetime, the tiny settlement became Virginia's first capital and the place where representative legislative government in America began on June 30, 1619.

The story of Jamestown is still shrouded in mystery. It's a jigsaw puzzle with many of the pieces missing. Records that should tell the story are incomplete. Extensive archeological excavations since the turn of the century have uncovered more than 500,000 artifacts and numerous building foundations, but failed to provide all the answers. But just in the last few years, archaeologists have made some exciting discoveries, namely the remains of the 1607 James Fort, as well as evidence of manufacturing by the early colonists. Visitors can view the Jamestown Rediscovery Archaeological Project in progress. It is sponsored by the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, which jointly operates Jamestown along with the National Park Service.



### *Touring Jamestown*

Historians and archaeologists have worked closely together to provide a picture of what life must have been like for the early settlers who landed on the island back in 1607. Excavations have uncovered foundations, innumerable artifacts and burial grounds.

Your tour of the site will take you through the old town, where exhibits, statues and memorials interpret the historic events. There is also a five-mile driving tour that takes in the entire island, with paintings and signs at pull-offs along the route that describe the struggles of the early settlers.

Begin your self-guided walking tour at the visitor center. Take plenty of time, stroll for an hour or two, and let your imagination wander. If you

like, you can rent an audio tape at the gift shop to carry along with you. Before you move out, however, be sure to see the 15-minute orientation film and the exhibits in the center's museum. This will give you something of a "feel" for what you are about to experience.

The first stop on your tour after you leave the visitor center is the **Tercentenary Monument**. From the terrace, you can see the foundations of the town site. The 103-foot-high granite shaft, erected in 1907, commemorates the 300th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown.

Stop 2 is at the **Statue of Pocahontas**, the daughter of Chief Powhatan. Her marriage to John Rolfe in 1614 helped to improve relations between the local Indians and the English.

The **Old Church Tower** at Stop 3, is the only 17th-century structure still standing. The tower is an addition to the first brick church built in 1639. In 1907, the 300th anniversary of the founding, a memorial church was built over the foundations of the 1639 brick church and an earlier frame church built in 1617. It was here on July 30th in 1619 that the first representative legislative assembly in North America convened to lay out the foundations for the representative style of government that we enjoy today.

Just down the road at stop 4, close to the banks of the James River, you'll find the **Statue of John Smith**. John Smith is a historical character that must have been a legend in his own lifetime. Explorer, soldier, author and president of the Virginia Council in 1608-1609, he instituted a policy of rigid discipline with the admonishment, "He who will not work, will not eat." It was largely because of him and his strong leadership that the colony survived, prospered and grew.

Nearby is the **APVA Jamestown Rediscovery Archeological Excavation**. Visitors are encouraged to watch the archeologists as they continue their search for more remains of the 1607 James Fort. Weather permitting, an interpreter is usually on hand to answer questions and give information on the most recent finds.

At Stop 5, a little farther on along the road, the **Robert Hunt Shrine** is dedicated to the colony's first Anglican minister. The Reverend Hunt played a key role in the colonists' spiritual life and their efforts to survive.

The **Dale House**, at Stop 6 near the sea wall, is named for Sir Thomas Dale, governor of Virginia from 1611 to 1616. It now serves as the Jamestown Rediscovery Archeological Laboratory. There is a viewing area where visitors can see artifacts from the dig.

The **Memorial Cross** at Stop 7 marks some 300 shallow graves hastily dug by the colonists during the winter of 1609-1610 – the period known as the "Starving Time."

Stop 8, at the west end of the settlement, is the location of the **Third and Fourth Statehouses**. Representative government grew and developed

in these buildings. The Third Statehouse was burned by Nathaniel Bacon during his ill-fated rebellion against the royal government in 1676. The Fourth Statehouse was built upon the foundations of the Third, but the structure accidentally burned in the fall of 1698, thus sparking the movement by the General Assembly to relocate the capital from Jamestown to Williamsburg.

From Stop 8, return along the road east to **New Towne** at Stop 9. New Towne was developed sometime soon after 1620. It's a section of Jamestown where wealthy colonists built more substantial homes. The foundations of many of the homes and other buildings were excavated by archaeologists during the 1930s and 1950s. Later these excavations were covered with white bricks to protect them. Take your time, stay on the pathways and off the ruins, and try to imagine those far off days. It's not difficult to picture how tough it must have been for the first settlers to survive the rigors of the uncivilized New World, especially during the first and second winters.

When you've finished at New Towne, return along the road toward the park and visit the Glasshouse. There you can watch artisans demonstrate the art of glassblowing – one of Virginia's first industries – as it was done in the 17th century.

The entrance station to the park is open daily from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. The visitor center is open daily from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. The Glasshouse is open daily 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. For information on Jamestown, The Original Site, ☎ 757-898-2410.

## *Jamestown Settlement*

Just outside the National Historic Park boundary is the Jamestown Settlement, a state-operated museum which, while not on the actual settlement site, brings history to life through replicas of the three ships that sailed from England to Virginia in 1607, a recreated fort and Powhatan Indian village.

Your visit starts with a 15-minute documentary film shown inside the large museum complex. The film chronicles the struggle of the colonists to survive in their new and strange home. The museum has several galleries. The **English Gallery** describes the situations that led to colonization. The **Powhatan Indian Gallery** takes you back through 10,000 years of human habitation in coastal Virginia, and tells about the leader Powhatan who was in power when the English arrived. The **Jamestown Gallery** tells of the settlement's place as the first capital of the Virginia colony, and the story of Powhatan's daughter, Pocahontas.

Next, visit the outdoor living history areas, where historical interpreters demonstrate the Powhatan way of life and life within the stockaded walls of James Fort. Then board replicas of the ***Susan Constant, Godspeed*** or ***Discovery*** docked at a pier on the James River. Under the decks you can

see where passengers lived during the four-month crossing of the Atlantic.

☎ 888-593-4682 or write to the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, PO Box 1607, Williamsburg, VA 23187. Visit their website at www.history-isfun.org.

# *Yorktown*

Yorktown is at the eastern end of the Colonial Parkway, and, although it's somewhat smaller today than it was in Colonial times, it still functions as an active community. Several of the houses and other structures have survived from the Colonial period. These fine old buildings lend the town much of its character.

Today, Yorktown is something of a shrine – a sanctuary surrounded the natural beauty. The beauty of the town, its quiet streets and a deep feeling for the momentous events that took place there, provide a unique opportunity for a day of relaxation and reflection.

Close to Yorktown lie the remains of English earthworks of 1781 as modified and strengthened by Confederate forces during the Civil War. A little further out are the reconstructions of the French and American lines. George Washington ordered the original allied works leveled immediately after the siege. The reconstruction of the more significant sections is the result of careful archaeological investigation and documented research.

## *Yorktown Battlefield*

Begin your visit to Yorktown by stopping in at the **National Park Service Visitor Center**, just along the Colonial Parkway.

The events of the siege and the story of the town are set forth in a theater program and exhibits in the visitor center. Among the items on display are tents used by Washington during the Yorktown campaign, part of a reconstruction of an English frigate and artifacts recovered from the York River. The Siege Line Overlook on the roof of the center offers a panoramic view of strategic points on the battlefield.

The seven-mile **Battlefield Auto Tour** takes visitors near the American and French siege lines. On display are the various types of artillery used to defeat the British. The Moore House, site of the surrender negotiations, is open daily in the summer and weekends in the spring and fall. Surrender Field was the site of the ceremonies ending the siege. There is an overlook and a recorded message about the event.

The **Yorktown Victory Center** is on the other side of the town about 1.5 miles away from the visitor center. A **self-guided walking tour** of the

city begins with a short walk from the visitor center, over Tobacco Road, past the Yorktown Victory Monument to Main Street.

**The Yorktown Victory Monument** was authorized by the Continental Congress in 1781. Construction began 100 years later during the Centennial Celebrations of the Allied Victory over the English. The monument was completed in 1884.

**The Hornsby House** is the first house on the left on Main Street as you leave the Park Service walkway. The stately Georgian-style house was designed by Joseph Geddy for Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Hornsby in 1933 and built in a Flemish bond brick pattern. The house is still owned by the Hornsby family.

**The Digges House** is a little farther along the street to the right. Once the home of Dudley Digges, an attorney who served as a member of the Colonial legislature, it was built around 1760 and still carries the scars of 1781.

**The Sessions House** is a few yards farther to the left. The Sessions House is thought to be the oldest house in Yorktown.

**The Nelson House**, an 18th-century Georgian-style structure, was built by "Scotch Tom" Nelson and eventually became the home of Thomas Nelson Jr., one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. The house was restored in the 1970s, and retains its scars from the siege of 1781. It is open to the public during the spring, summer and fall. ☎ 757-898-2410 for hours.

**The Customs House** was built in 1721 and was the storehouse and office of Richard Ambler while he served as Collector of Ports in Yorktown during the Colonial period. It is believed to be the oldest customs house in the United States.

**The Burcher Cottage** was constructed in the 1800s and is a gift shop operated by a Park Service concessionaire.

**The Pate House**, located across the street from the Customs House, was built by Thomas Pate in the early 1700s.

**The Somerwell House**, a little farther down on the same side of the street, was built around 1707 by local ferryman Mungo Somerwell. Today it houses Period Designs, featuring an assortment of household furnishings inspired by 17th and 18th century antiques.

**The Medical Shop** is a reconstruction of an 18th-century medical shop. It was re-built by the National Park Service in 1936.

**The Swan Tavern** is a reconstruction of a popular Yorktown tavern built originally on the site by "Scotch Tom" Nelson and Joseph Walker in 1722. The original structure was destroyed by an ammunition explosion during the Civil War.

**The Yorktown Arts Foundation-On The Hill**, located on Alexander Hamilton Boulevard, features displays by resident artists and artisans, and sponsors monthly gallery exhibits by guest artists. The center is open Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m., and on Sundays from noon until 5 p.m. Closed major holidays. ☎ 757-898-3076.

**The Yorktown Victory Center**, just beyond Highway 17, tells the story of the American Revolution through a stirring documentary and many unique interpretive exhibits. In the recreated Continental Army camp costumed interpreters play out their everyday lives as members of George Washington's army. They demonstrate cooking, musketry, military drills, music and 18th-century surgery. At the center's farm, they interpret Virginia farm life as it might have been in the late 18th century. The state-operated museum is open daily from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m., except for Christmas and New Year's Day.

❖ *For more information, ☎ 888-593-4682 or write to the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, PO Box 1607, Williamsburg, Virginia 23187; or visit www.historyisfun.org.*

**The Watermen's Museum**, located on the banks of the York River at Water Street, interprets the story of Virginia's watermen who, for centuries, have worked the rivers, tributaries, and the Chesapeake Bay. The museum is open April 1 to mid-December, Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., and from 1 p.m. until 4 on Sundays. ☎ 757-887-2641.

Return to the visitor center by walking back along Water Street.

**The Archer House**, on Water Street not far from the town pier, was used as a home and store by the Archer family for more than a hundred years. The old building is typical of a Colonial waterfront dwelling.

**The Cornwallis Cave** was not, contrary to local legend, the headquarters of the English general during the siege. Most likely it was used by other English officers and civilians.

Return to the visitor center by turning right onto Comte de Grasse Street, then left on Main Street and left again onto the Park Service walkway, past the Victory Monument on your left and over Tobacco Road, a trail once used by plantation workers to roll the hogsheads of tobacco down to the warehouses on the waterfront.

Before you begin your self-guided driving tour of the Yorktown Battlefields, you might like to rent a taped commentary from the visitor center.

For more information about Yorktown, contact the **National Park Service**, Colonial National Historical Park, PO Box 210, Yorktown, VA 23690. ☎ 757-898-2410.

## Annual Events

For more information on these events, call the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation at ☎ 888-593-4682.

**Military Through the Ages**, in mid-March, features re-enactors and modern-day veterans demonstrating camp life, military tactics and weaponry at Jamestown Settlement

**Jamestown Founding Weekend**, in mid-May, is an encampment featuring 17th-century tactical demonstrations at Jamestown, The Original Site, ☎ 757-898-3400.

**First Assembly Day** commemorates the nation's first legislative assembly at Jamestown in 1619. Held in late July/early August. ☎ 757-898-3400.

**Celebrate Yorktown Festival** features a winefest, antiques, music and gourmet food on the York River in late August, ☎ 757-890-0916.

**Yorktown Victory Celebration** is a weekend encampment at Yorktown Victory Center in October marking the anniversary of America's victory at Yorktown.

**Foods & Feasts of Colonial Virginia** is a three-day Thanksgiving event exploring the cuisine of the early Virginia colony. Held at Jamestown Settlement and Yorktown Victory Center.

**A Colonial Christmas** demonstrates the holiday traditions of early Jamestown and Yorktown from late November through December. Held at Jamestown Settlement and Yorktown Victory Center.

## Dining

**Nick's Seafood Pavilion**, on Water Street at the end of the bridge, ☎ 757-887-5269, is open for lunch and dinner. It offers a semi-à la carte menu in a Grecian atmosphere, complete with grapevines and Greek statuary. Specialties include Greek salad, lobster, seafood and kebabs. After dinner, take a stroll along the York River beachfront.

The **Yorktown Pub**, 540 Water Street, ☎ 757-886-9964, overlooks the York River and is open for lunch and dinner. For a fun, casual meal with a great view, this is the place. Specialties include the Pub Burger and prime rib sandwiches. They accept cash only.

## Accommodations

Most establishments offer both handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms, but be sure to ask when making reservations.

### *Hotels & Motels*

**The Duke of York Motel** is at 508 Water Street, ☎ 757-898-3232, and overlooks the York River opposite the Town Beach. The motel has 57 rooms, shady lawns, a swimming pool and a café. $$

**Yorktown Motor Lodge** is at 8829 George Washington Highway (Route 17), ☎ 800-950-4003, is just three miles from Yorktown Battlefield. There are 42 rooms, free morning coffee, an outdoor pool and a playground. $-$$

### *Bed & Breakfasts / Inns*

**Marl Inn B&B** at 220 Church Street, Yorktown, ☎ 757-898-3859 or 800-799-6207, has four guest rooms with private baths and entrances. There is a fireplace in the parlor and bicycles available for guests. $$$

**York River Inn B&B** at 209 Ambler Street, Yorktown, ☎ 757-887-8800 or 800-884-7003, is located on the water and is furnished with Virginia antiques and collectibles. There are three rooms with private baths. The Inn serves a full gourmet breakfast, and is a non-smoking facility. $$$

# The Eastern Shore

## Accomack & Northampton Counties

Virginia's Eastern Shore encompasses the two southernmost counties on the tiny strip of land in the Chesapeake Bay that makes up the Delmarva Peninsula – Accomack and Northampton.

The peninsula is a quiet place of solitude and rich natural settings, colorful waterfowl, rustic workboats and scenic islands, where the pirate Blackbeard once sought refuge.

Numerous undeveloped islands off the ocean side of the shore form one of the last unspoiled barrier island ecosystems on the East Coast.

Hikers can roam the miles of unspoiled, uncrowded beaches of Assateague National Wildlife Refuge, camp among the dunes and see the famous Chincoteague wild ponies. The migration of tens of thousands of shorebirds each year makes birding popular. Fishing opportunities are some of the best on the East Coast, either in the Chesapeake Bay, the Atlantic Ocean, or dozens of tidal creeks in-between. Hunters will find many species of wildlife and waterfowl. For shoppers, the many quaint seaside villages offer numerous antique shops, gift shops and auctions.

The pace is a little slower, but if it's activity you're looking for, there's a lot happening on the Eastern Shore all year long.

## History

The first recorded account of a visit by white men to the Eastern Shore was written in 1603 by Thomas Canner. Canner was a member of a landing party led by Captain Gilbert, a nephew of Sir Walter Raleigh who, following orders from his uncle, was searching for traces of the colony that had vanished from Roanoke Island some 15 years earlier. The landing party was ambushed by hostile Indians. Only two men survived the attack. One of them was Thomas Canner.

In 1608, that much traveled English captain, John Smith, came ashore with a party of 32 men to explore and map the area.

The first permanent white settler, Thomas Savage, arrived in 1614 and, to this day, his descendants are among the Shore's most prominent families. Other settlers followed and a county government was soon established.

The town of **Cape Charles** was established in 1884, when the New York, Philadelphia and Norfolk Railroad extended its line southward through the Delmarva Peninsula. Cape Charles became the railroad's southern terminus, from which steamships carried freight and passengers to Norfolk. It was incorporated in 1886, and later became the headquarters for the Norfolk Division of the Pennsylvania Railroad.

Today, Cape Charles is still a railroad town, serving as headquarters for the Eastern Shore Railroad, one of the largest short-line railroads in the country. The freight line is unique in that it operates a 26-mile rail-barge ferry link to Norfolk across the Chesapeake Bay.

## Sights

**The Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel**. You can't visit the Eastern Shore and not visit Virginia's man-made wonder. Go north through the peninsula from Virginia Beach, or south from Philadelphia via US 13, and you have to drive the 17.6-mile passage that are the world's largest bridge-tunnel complex.

Construction of the bridge-tunnel complex required building some 12 miles of trestled roadway, two one-mile-long tunnels, two bridges, almost two miles of causeway, four man-made islands and 5½ miles of approach roads, for a total length of almost 23 miles. A second parallel bridge span was recently completed in 1999, easing traffic and safety problems.

Be sure to make a stop at the Sea Gull Fishing Pier and Restaurant on the first of the Bridge-Tunnel's four man-made islands 3½ miles from Virginia Beach. Cast your line from the free 625-foot pier and you might catch any one of a variety of species of fish, including bluefish, flounder, croaker, trout, and shark. Or you might like to take time out and enjoy a great meal in one of the unique dining spots of the world. The restaurant

is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner, and serves a variety of foods and wines, from sandwiches to fresh seafood.

For more information, ☎ 757-331-2960 or write to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge and Tunnel District, Dept. FTG, Cape Charles, VA 23310.

> ❖ *It's a good idea to call ahead in severe weather. In heavy winds, vehicles with cargo carriers and bike racks may not be allowed to cross.*

**Eastern Shore of Virginia National Wildlife Refuge**, ☎ 757-331-2760, is at the northern terminus of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel. The visitor center houses an extensive collection of waterfowl carvings and exhibits on the migratory birds that pass through each fall, including endangered species such as the bald eagle and the peregrine falcon. Hiking trails on the 752-acre refuge and an elevated viewing platform atop a World War II bunker make this a bird-watcher's paradise. There's even a butterfly trail!

**Kiptopeke State Park**, three miles north of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, ☎ 757-331-2267, is one of Virginia's newest state parks. It is located on the site where the ferries to the mainland once docked before the bridge-tunnel was constructed. An artificial bay was formed by sunken, concrete-filled ships that can still be seen from the beach. The waters are shallow and calm enough for safe swimming, even for small children. Fishing, birdwatching, and camping are available.

**Cape Charles** is a sleepy little town on the western shore near the southern tip of the peninsula that is enjoying a renaissance of sorts. It's small enough to remain friendly, but large enough to maintain a business community that offers everything you could want for an enjoyable vacation. Retail and antique stores, quaint inns, marinas, boat ramps, charter fishing, fine old homes and tree-shaded streets are just a few of the attractions.

The **Cape Charles Museum and Welcome Center** is a great place to start your visit. It opened in 1996 in a former building of Delmarva Power, circa 1947. Exhibits change each year, but typically highlight the life, industry and history of the Eastern Shore. Open Thursday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. ☎ 757-331-1008.

**The Arts Enter at the Palace Theatre**, 305 Mason Avenue in Cape Charles, ☎ 757-331-ARTS, offers dance and art workshops as well as several musical, dance and theater performances each month in the restored Palace Theatre. Visit www.virginiashore.com/artsenter.

❖ *Cape Charles also has one of the few public beaches in Northampton County. The broad expanse of white sand is perfect for sunbathing and the mile-long sea wall promenade, "The Boardwalk," is a great place for a stroll in the sunshine or the moonlight. There's a gazebo where you can relax, chat, and enjoy spectacular sunsets over the sparkling waters of the Chesapeake Bay.*

**Eastville** was established as the Northampton County seat in 1631 and has remained the seat of government ever since. The Northampton County Courthouse contains the oldest continuous set of court records in the country, dating from 1632. Many of the old homes in Eastville have survived from Colonial times. Several of them are open to the public during Garden Week. The Debtors' Prison, old Clerk's Office and an ancient whipping post beside the prison are just a few of the attractions at the old county seat.

**Wachapreague**, the Little City by the Sea, is a scenic fishing village on the Eastern Shore. Known also as the Flounder Fishing Capital of the World, it's a great place to enjoy a quiet afternoon on the waterfront. Or, if that's not to your taste, you can embark upon a deep-sea fishing trip on one of the many charter boats that leave the harbor daily for the fishing grounds offshore and the tiny inlets of the Atlantic coast. For more information and complete listing of charter boats, call the Eastern Shore Tourism Commission, ☎ 757-787-2460.

**Onancock** is a small, but charming community, 45 miles north of the Bay Bridge-Tunnel. Located 2½ miles from the Chesapeake Bay on the Onancock Creek, the waterfront environment is an ideal place for the sports enthusiast. The town's deep water harbor, with its new and improved docking facilities, has a new boat launching ramp and great opportunities for fishing, boating, water-skiing and swimming. Onancock is also the home of the Eastern Shore Historical Society, located in Kerr Place – a magnificent country mansion built in 1799. For further information about Onancock, contact the Town Hall on North Street, ☎ 757-787-3363.

**Tangier Island** is a quaint mix of old and new cut off from the mainland by the waters of the Chesapeake Bay. The island, first discovered by Captain John Smith in 1608, wasn't settled until 1686. During the war of 1812, the British Navy landed troops on the island and used it to prepare for the assault of Fort McHenry. To visit the island you'll take an exciting cruise down Onancock Creek and across the open water of the Chesapeake Bay. For more information and cruise schedules, ☎ 757-891-2574. Seasonal.

**Accomac** is a good place to take a sidewalk tour, with an astounding amount of historic architecture within a short radius of the town center.

**The Debtor's Prison in Accomac**. Built in 1784 as the jailer's residence and adapted as a debtor's prison in 1824, the old building is a fine example of an 18th-century tradesman's residence and remains essentially unchanged since 1784. The structure has two rooms on the first floor and two more in the loft. The heavy doors and bars were added in 1824. The old prison contains many relics and memorabilia from Colonial times, including the bell from the Accomac church, some books written and donated by President Woodrow Wilson and an old ledger from the store at Drummond's mill. There's also a map of the Chesapeake Bay dated November 30, 1781. To arrange a visit, ☎ 757-787-3436.

**The Eastern Shore Railway Museum**, located in Parksley, two miles west of Route 13, stands on the site of the original Parksley Station and preserves the Golden Age of the Railroad on the Delmarva Peninsula. The museum is open daily year-round, Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., and on Sundays from 1 until 4 p.m. Closed Wednesdays, November through March. ☎ 757-665-RAIL.

At **Turner Sculpture** on Route 13 in Melfa, you can view the bronze sculptures of world-renowned artists William and David Turner. See miniature and life-sized sculpture of wildlife and waterfowl. Open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; weekends 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ☎ 757-787-2818.

**The Locustville Academy** opened in 1859 in Locustville and operated for 20 years. It is the only survivor of at least a dozen schools of higher learning that served the Eastern Shore during 1800s. Today, the museum offers visitors a look at the way college level education was conducted more than a century ago. The museum is open by arrangement. ☎ 757-787-7480 or 757-787-2460.

**The Oyster and Maritime Museum** in Chincoteague tells the story of the oystering and seafood business, once the major industry of the island. Exhibits include live marine animals, shell specimens, historical and marine artifacts and implements used in the seafood industry. ☎ 757-336-6117.

**The Refuge Waterfowl Museum** in Chincoteague offers a unique look at wildlife through a number of interpretive exhibits and displays. These include carved waterfowl, antique decoys and art, boats, weapons and traps. ☎ 757-336-5800.

**The Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge**, on Assateague Island, is the home of the famed Chincoteague ponies and an area of great natural beauty set aside to protect wildlife and their habitats. Beyond that, the refuge is a fine place to spend a day enjoying the great outdoors. Activities such as hiking, bicycling and driving are allowed only in designated areas. Fishing and crabbing are permitted in Toms Cove, Swans Cove and other specified areas. Boats may land on Assateague Point

year-round, and on the Hook from September 1st through March 14th. ☎ 757-336-6577.

**The Assateague Island National Seashore** is a narrow, 37-mile barrier island that parallels the shore of Maryland and Virginia. It is a wild and remote region, and from the Virginia side, it is accessible only by foot or by a guided tram tour. The shoreline changes constantly as the offshore winds and storms drive the sand into a wonderland of dunes and quiet beaches. The island provides natural habitats for a variety of wild animals, birds and marine life, including the great blue heron, black-crowned heron, snowy egret, dunlins, American widgeon, the peregrine falcon, and the famed Chincoteague ponies.

The island is also a refuge for humans who need to get right away from the stress of city life. Three areas are available on the island for public use: the National Seashore, the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge and Maryland's Assateague State Park at the northern end of the island. Hiking, bicycling, backpacking, fishing, boating, birdwatching and camping are only a few of the activities available. For more information, call the National Park Service at the Barrier Island Visitor Center in Berlin, Maryland, ☎ 410-641-3030. For information on tours entering from the Virginia end, ☎ 757-336-6155.

**The NASA/Wallops Visitor Center** is the place to see an assortment of space-flight vehicles, equipment and exhibits on America's space flight program. The visitor center is open daily, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., July 4 through Labor Day; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursday through Monday, from March 1 through July 3, and the day after Labor Day until Nov. 30. ☎ 757-824-1344.

**The Decoy Factory** at Oak Hall is the world's largest. Watch as the workers carve and paint wooden ducks, geese and other native waterfowl, and then visit the gift shop for a souvenir made right there on the premises. The factory is open daily from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. ☎ 757-824-5621.



# *Recreation*

## *Fishing*

The opportunities for fishing are nearly endless on the Eastern Shore. You can charter a deep-sea fishing boat from one of the villages, or try surf fishing off one of the barrier islands. Then there's the expansive Chesapeake Bay and its many inlets to explore.

## *Shopping*

Forget the giant malls of the big city with their hundreds of specialty shops and department stores; you won't find them on the Eastern Shore. What you will find is a delightful variety of tiny shops, antique stores and gift shops. Visit the quaint little coastal towns and villages so typical of old-world Virginia, spend endless hours browsing the shaded streets and waterfronts, and then take time out for a quiet moment with a cup of coffee or a seafood meal in one of the many restaurants along the way.

## *Annual Events*

**The Annual Seafood Festival**, held early in May at Toms Cove Campground at Chincoteague, has become something of a ritual for seafood lovers from around the country. Every year, thousands make the trek to the island to enjoy this harvest of the sea. ☎ 757-787-2460.

**The Annual Pony Swim and Penning**, held in late July, is, without question, the most popular event for visitors to the Eastern Shore. Although the origin of the ponies is unknown, they have become the object of local legend. The story is that they descend from survivors of a 16th-century shipwreck. Today, the excitement of Pony Penning Week is felt all over the island. To control the number of ponies, a certain number are auctioned off each year to benefit the Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Department, which owns the herd. Firemen and volunteers round up the ponies for a swim from the island to the mainland. ☎ 757-787-2460.

**The Eastern Shore Harvestfest**, held in early October, is a celebration of the foods that made Virginia's Eastern Shore famous. Visitors enjoy a variety of local foods and cuisine, including seafood, sweet potatoes and chicken, along with all sorts of entertainment and exhibitions. ☎ 757-787-2460.

**The Eastern Shore Birding Festival**, held in October, is a one-of-a-kind event celebrating the peak of the fall bird migration. Thousands upon thousands of birds congregate here in preparation for their annual flight to the tropics. Activities include tours, presentations, exhibits and workshops. ☎ 757-787-2460.

## *Dining*

Opportunities for fine dining on local produce from the land and sea exist in all sorts of locations the length and breadth of the peninsula. Visitors to the Eastern Shore can enjoy a variety of local foods and cuisine, including fresh seafood, beef, sweet potatoes, chicken and much, much more.

**Armando's Restaurant**, on North Street in Onancock, ☎ 757-787-8044, is a true gem of the Eastern Shore. Armando Suarez, owner and chef, is a

native of Argentina who came to the shore in 1988. Armando creates his own eclectic originals combining the freshest seafood and meats with the diverse tastes of Italian, Japanese, Cajun, Indian, Chinese and European cooking. He calls it "New American" cuisine. Fine wines and nightly specials served. Open for dinner only, 5 to 9 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday, and until 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

**The Eastville Manor** on Willow Oak Road, just off Route 13, ☎ 757-678-7378, offers casual fine dining in a cira-1886 home, now a bed and breakfast. Open for dinner only, 5:30 to 9 p.m., Wednesday through Saturday. Be sure to walk through the herb and flower gardens with their century-old tress and boxwoods. Local seafood, quail, duck, beef and fine wines served.

**Joan and Larry's Fast Food**, ☎ 757-442-2766, Route 13, Exmore. Joan and Larry have been in business nearly a quarter of a century, serving up homemade soups and salads at reasonable prices. Don't miss the crabcake sandwiches and the sweet potato sticks. Eat-in or take-out. Open daily for lunch and dinner.

**Little Italy Ristorante** on Route 13 in Nassawadox, ☎ 757-442-7831, features stromboli, calzone and pizza for lunch and dinner, for take-out or fine dining inside.

**Confetti's Café** in the Four Corners Plaza, Route 13 in Onley, ☎ 757-787-8887, is a bakery and ice cream parlor furnished with antiques and serving homemade desserts and salads.

**Island House Restaurant** in Wachapreague, ☎ 757-787-4242, offers dining on fresh local seafood and Black Angus steaks overlooking the waterfront.

**Sting-Ray's Restaurant**, on Route 13 near Capeville, ☎ 757-331-2505, is open for lunch and dinner. Specialties of the house include their award-winning chili, fine wine, local seafood and charbroiled steaks.

**The Trawler Restaurant**, on Route 13 in Exmore, is open for lunch and dinner. It offers a variety of specialties which include the host's sweet potato biscuits, she crab soup and an assortment of local seafood dishes. Call for reservations, ☎ 757-442-2092.

**Wright's Seafood Restaurant** is where you'll find The Crab Galley, an all-you-can-eat buffet featuring steamed crabs, steamed shrimp, Alaskan crab legs and barbecue ribs. Specialties of the house include fried chicken, clam strips, shrimp crisps and hush puppies. The restaurant is located in Atlantic and is open for dinner only. Closed Mondays. ☎ 757-824-4012.

**Etta's Channel Side Restaurant**, on East Side Drive in Chincoteague overlooking the channel and the lighthouse, is open for lunch and dinner on weekends and dinner only Monday through Thursday. Specialties of

the house include local seafood dishes. It has a pleasant family atmosphere. ☎ 757-336-5644.

**Big Bill's Captain's Deck Restaurant**, on Route 13 south in Nassawadox, is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner. If it's seafood that delights you, you'll find it here. And, if you're a fisherman, they'll prepare your catch and include two vegetables and cornbread, all for the price of a couple of hamburgers. There's also a weekend breakfast buffet, and breakfast is served all day long. ☎ 757-442-7060.

## *Accommodations*

Most establishments offer both handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms, but be sure to ask when making reservations.

### *Hotels & Motels*

**Anchor Inn**, 3775 Main Street in Chincoteague, ☎ 757-336-6313, has several efficiencies, waterfront apartments, and a cottage. Facilities include a boat launching ramp, fish cleaning tables, freezers for storing your catch, a recreation room for your own private crab steaming party, and a meeting room. $$

**Best Western Eastern Shore Inn**, ☎ 757-442-REST, in Exmore, has a heated pool, in-room coffee, free continental breakfast and HBO, laundry facilities, handicapped and non-smoking rooms. $$

**Birchwood Motel** at 4650 Main Street, Chincoteague, ☎ 757-336-6133, has 41 guest rooms, a swimming pool, cable TV, a dock and crabbing pier and rooms with water views. Free coffee is provided in the guest rooms. $$

**Comfort Inn** on Route 13 at Onley, ☎ 757-787-7787, has 80 guest rooms and 10 suites, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. There is an outdoor pool, exercise room and data-port telephones. Restaurants and shopping nearby. A free continental breakfast is included in the rate. $$

**Days Inn Cape Charles**, is three miles north of the Bridge-Tunnel on Route 13, ☎ 800-331-4000. It has more than 100 rooms, truck and boat parking, a restaurant and pool. $$

**Driftwood Motor Lodge** on Chincoteague Island, ☎ 800-553-6117, offers 52 spacious guest rooms overlooking the wildlife refuge, handicapped facilities and a swimming pool. Every room has a refrigerator, private balcony and patio. Several restaurants nearby. $$

**Refuge Motor Inn**, 7058 Maddox Blvd., Chincoteague, ☎ 757-336-5511, has a hot tub, indoor-outdoor pool, laundry facilities and bike rentals. $$-$$$

**Sunset Beach Resort**, near the entrance to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel in Cape Charles, ☎ 800-899-4786 or 757-331-1776, has 74 rooms including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. Facilities include cable TV, a pool, a wading pool, meeting rooms, and a private beach. $$-$$$

**Wachapreague Motel** is a short walk from the marina and Island House Restaurant at 17 Atlantic Avenue, Wachapreague, ☎ 757-787-2105. The hotel has 30 comfortable rooms, efficiencies and two-bedroom apartments. The restaurant specializes in fresh seafood and visitors can spend time birdwatching. $$

**Waterside Motor Inn**, 3761 Main Street in Chincoteague, ☎ 757-336-3434, has 45 rooms, four condos, and offers private balconies overlooking the Chincoteague Channel, panoramic sunsets, a waterfront swimming pool, a fishing pier, a tennis court and a marina. Laundry facilities, non-smoking and handicapped-accessible rooms available. $$$

## *Bed & Breakfasts / Inns*

**Burton House**, Brooklyn Avenue in Wachapreague, ☎ 757-787-4560, is a Victorian bed and breakfast on the Wachapreague Channel. Seven rooms, some with shared bath, all non-smoking. $$

**Harts Harbor House Bed & Breakfast**, on Brooklyn Avenue in Wachapreague, ☎ 757-787-4848, offers affordable waterview accommodations in an 1885 home as well as waterfront rental cottages. Full country breakfast. All non-smoking rooms. $$

**Garden and the Sea Inn** in New Church, ☎ 757-824-0672, began as a tavern in 1802. Six rooms and French dining in an elegant European country inn. Dinner is open to the public on Friday and Saturday. $$-$$$

**Wilson-Lee House**, 403 Tazewell Avenue, Cape Charles, ☎ 757-331-8133, has six guest rooms, all with private baths. It is a 1906 Colonial Revival home that has been restored by the owners, one of whom is an architect. The rooms are furnished eclectically with period furnishings and classic and contemporary art. $$-$$$

## *Camping*

**Cherrystone Family Campground & RV Resort** in Cheriton is on VA 680, off US 13, 11 miles north of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel, ☎ 757-331-3063. It is set on 300 acres of Chesapeake Bay waterfront. Facilities include 700 sites, flush toilets and hot showers, a restaurant, four piers, boat rentals, cruises, mini-golf, playgrounds, and four pools. You can also rent a camping trailer or deluxe cabin. There is fishing, crabbing, boating, and various planned activities and live entertainment. www.cherrystoneva.com.

**Camper's Ranch** on Chincoteague Island has 500 semi-wooded sites, 130 with full hookups, 192 with water and electric, and 175 without hookups. Facilities include group sites, flush toilets and hot showers, sewage disposal and a laundry. LP gas is available. There is a recreation room, a pavilion, a swimming pool, pond fishing and a playground. ☎ 757-336-6371.

**Inlet View Campground** on Chincoteague Island offers 414 waterfront sites, 225 with full hookups, 139 with water and electric, and 50 more without hookups. There is a grocery store, public phones, flush toilets and hot showers, sewage disposal, a laundry and LP gas is available. Recreation room, go-carting, saltwater fishing, a boat launching ramp, playground. ☎ 757-336-5126.

**Kiptopeke State Park**, three miles north of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel on Kiptopeke Drive, just off US 13, ☎ 757-331-2267, has 141 sites, hot showers, and electric hookups. Also has hiking and bicycle trails, a boat launch, fishing and a beach on the Chesapeake Bay.

**The Maddox Family Campground** on Chincoteague Island offers 550 sites, 100 with full hookups, 261 with water and electric, and 189 without hookups. There is a grocery store, public phones, flush toilets and hot showers, sewage disposal, a laundry and LP gas is available. Facilities include a recreation room, pavilion, swimming pool, mini-golf, playground, volleyball and horseshoes. ☎ 757-336-3111.

**The Pine Grove Campground** on Chincoteague Island offers 150 sites, 72 with full hookups, 45 with water and electric, and 33 without hookups. Facilities include a grocery store, public phones, flush toilets and hot showers, sewage disposal, laundry and LP gas is available. There is a swimming pool and a playground. ☎ 757-336-5200.

**Toms Cove Camping** on Chincoteague Island offers 875 sites, 545 with full hookups, 230 with water and electric, and 100 without hookups. There is a full-service store, public phones, handicapped facilities, flush toilets and hot showers, sewage disposal, a laundry and LP gas. A recreation room, bicycle rentals, pool, a boat ramp and dock, water skiing, saltwater fishing, and a playground are also available. ☎ 757-336-6498.

## *Information*

**Virginia's Eastern Shore Tourism Commission & Chamber of Commerce**, PO Box 460, Melfa, VA 23410. ☎ 757-787-2460, or visit www.ESVA.com.

**The Eastern Shore of Virginia Economic Development Commission**, PO Box 417, Accomac, VA 23301. ☎ 757-787-1247 or 888-200-1778.

**The Chincoteague Chamber of Commerce**, PO Box 258, Chincoteague, VA 23336. ☎ 757-336-6161.

# Chesapeake Bay's Northern Neck

Virginia's wide, flat coastal region slopes gently from the Chesapeake Bay, rising no more than a hundred feet or so between the shoreline and the fall line, a geologic formation that signals the beginning of Virginia's Piedmont. Through this coastal plain flow two mighty rivers, the Rappahannock and the York. The major landforms are two peninsulas that jut out into the Chesapeake Bay – the Middle Peninsula and Northern Neck. The rivers and the peninsulas provide a water wonderland for recreation and watermen alike.

Besides fishing, antiquing is probably one of the most popular activities on both Peninsulas. The quaint "court houses" – or county seats – provide hours of browsing through curio shops. Then take a break at any one of a plenitude of fine seafood restaurants, to sample the harvest of the Chesapeake Bay, North America's largest estuary.

Nestled between the Rappahannock and Potomac Rivers, Virginia's Northern Neck is a narrow, picturesque peninsula as beautiful and unspoiled as it was when Captain John Smith first visited in 1608. Visitors can explore local historic sites, sail, cruise, fish or simply relax and enjoy the scenery. Here you can visit the birthplaces of George Washington and Robert E. Lee, as well as two signers of the Declaration of Independence.

Located less than two hours from the nation's capital, the Northern Neck peninsula encompasses five counties: **King George**, **Westmoreland**, **Richmond**, **Northumberland** and **Lancaster**.



## *History*

The area was first settled by Europeans some 300 years ago, but by then Native Americans had lived on the peninsula for more than 10,000 years. Many of the rivers on the Northern Neck such as the Wicomico, Coan, and Nomini are named for Indian tribes.

As the colony began to grow, so did the Northern Neck. Settlers built farms and towns on the rivers. Great Americans, taken with the natural beauty of the area, made their homes and fortunes by the waters of the Chesapeake and the two great tidal waterways. Three of our nation's presidents, George Washington, James Monroe and James Madison, were born on the peninsula.

By the 1880s the Northern Neck economy was booming. Steamboats out of Baltimore and Norfolk plied the Chesapeake Bay from one end to the other, stopping at the wharves in the tiny river ports to drop off supplies

and pick up a variety of local products from the farms and canneries headed for markets in the big cities.

Fortunately, the Northern Neck's growing economy did little to spoil its great natural beauty. Today, the tiny towns and villages have changed little with the years. The peninsula has retained all its old-world appeal. This is a place where the charm and quality of everyday country life leaves a lasting impression. Its bustling county fairs and town market days, local arts, crafts and music, seafood fresh from the waters of the rivers and bay, home-grown produce, friendly people, and fresh sea air make a visit here one you will never forget.

## *Touring*

It makes little difference where you begin your tour of Virginia's Northern Neck, as there's always plenty for you to see and do. If you can, take your time. Rush it and you'll miss the little things, the tiny corner shops and cafés, the coves and bays and many of the lesser known attractions that make for a great experience.

If you arrive on the peninsula from Washington or Baltimore, you can follow the loop road, Routes 3, 202, and 360 paralleling the Potomac from Oak Grove through Montross to Burgess. From Burgess, take Route 200 along the Chesapeake Bay to Kilmarnock, then turn west and follow Route 3 up the Rappahannock through Lancaster, Farnham and Warsaw, back to Montross.

From Williamsburg, Norfolk, Virginia Beach, Richmond and the South, you'll arrive on Route 17 north. Cross the Rappahannock by the Downing Bridge on Route 360 at Tappahannock and drive to Warsaw. From there you can turn east or west and follow the loop road until it brings you back again to Warsaw.

Whichever route you decide to take, don't be afraid to wander off the beaten path. The side roads and byways often lead to magnificent views, quaint little restaurants, old country churches and secluded spots.

If arriving from the north, you'll want to begin your tour in **King George County**. A good place to start is the **Potomac Gateway Welcome Center** at 3540 James Madison Parkway in King George, which provides information on the Northern Neck, Middle Peninsula and Fredericksburg regions. ☎ 540-663-3205.

**The King George County Museum and Research Center** is located in the Old Jail at the County Courthouse at 9483 Kings Highway. Open year-round, except for major holidays and two weeks at Christmas. ☎ 540-775-9477. Nearby, the **Caledon Natural Area** is a bald eagle summer foraging area.

Next is **Westmoreland County**, east of Oak Grove and bounded by the Rappahannock and Potomac Rivers. There you'll find several interesting and historic sites.

Near **Colonial Beach**, on Leedstown Road, is the **Ingleside Plantation Winery**, which is open for tours and tastings year-round. ☎ 804-224-8687.

**The George Washington Birthplace National Monument**, off Route 3 on Route 204 near Oak Grove, is the site where our first president was born. The original house is no longer there. The Memorial House and farm you see today are reconstructions that depict and interpret the everyday life on an 18th-century plantation. Costumed guides and interpreters till the fields, tend the animals, and demonstrate weaving, spinning and candle-making as it was done by the early settlers. Food is prepared in the Colonial kitchen. During the summer months, special activities include a Colonial Crafts show, Indian and Black Heritage History days, a Gentry Weekend, and Colonial Medicine days, all of which provide glimpses of the lifestyle of the early colonists. The park is a great place for a family outing. There are picnic areas, nature walks and even a place to go fishing. The park is open daily from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. except for Christmas Day and New Year's Day. ☎ 804-224-1732.

From the George Washington Birthplace, return to Route 3, go east to Route 347 and turn north to **Westmoreland State Park.** This is your opportunity to enjoy an afternoon of fun and sunshine. If you feel so inclined, you can spend the night in one of the park's overnight cabins. There's plenty to do, from swimming in the Olympic-sized pool to fishing the tidal waters of the Potomac. There are several hiking, bicycle and bridle trails, a sandy beach, a playground for the kids, a snack bar, a restaurant, and a visitor center. Boats and bicycles are available for rent, and the camping facilities include electric and water hookups. ☎ 804-493-8821.

**The Stratford Hall Plantation** is just east of Westmoreland State Park off Route 3 on Route 214 near Montross. Stratford Hall was the birthplace of Confederate General Robert E. Lee. The house, built in 1738 by Thomas Lee, was also home to two signers of the Declaration of Independence, Richard Henry Lee and Francis Lightfoot Lee. The "H-shaped" manor house is constructed entirely from bricks made on the estate and timber hewn from its own forests. The great hall at the center of the house measures 29 feet square with a 17-foot-high ceiling, and is considered one of the most architecturally significant structures to survive from Colonial times. Today, the 1,600-acre estate is managed as a working farm. Costumed guides lead tours through the house and you can wander through meadows, wildflowers and a beautiful boxwood garden, then walk the woodland trail to the bluffs overlooking the Potomac River. There's also a museum, a collection of 18th- and 19th-century carriages, a working mill and a log cabin dining room in a wooded setting. Lunch and

dinner are served daily from 11:30 a.m. until 8 p.m. The house and grounds are open daily from 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. ☎ 804-493-8038.

From Stratford Hall, return to Route 3 and turn east to **Montross**, a quaint little place with an old-world character all its own. Drop in at the visitor center at the Westmoreland County Museum and pick up a walking tour map. Be sure to visit the old courthouse and, if you have time, have lunch or dinner at the Inn of Montross.

**The Westmoreland County Museum**, located on Courthouse Square in Montross, highlights Westmoreland County history and culture from its beginnings to the present. Special exhibits and facilities include a library with extensive historical and research materials, and a beautiful brick-walled garden, created by the Westmoreland Garden Club to honor the three US Presidents born on the Northern Neck. Open Monday through Saturday, ☎ 804-493-8440.

From Montross, continue east along Route 3 to the intersection with Route 202 and then turn left toward Mount Holly and continue on to **Kinsale**. Interesting side trips along the way include **Coles Point**, **Kinsale** and **Lewisetta**. All offer magnificent views across the Potomac River and are well worth a visit.

Kinsale was an active steamboat landing during the late 19th century. The **Kinsale Museum** tells the story through exhibits, and offers a walking tour. It is open Sundays from 1 until 5 p.m., May through October. ☎ 804-472-3001.

The **Port Kinsale Maritime Museum**, on Route 608, has the restored skipjack, *Virginia W,* which is on the National Historic Register. ☎ 804-472-2044.

At **Heathsville**, you'll enter Northumberland County, the first county established on the Northern Neck in 1648, and the "mother county" from which all the others on the Northern Neck were formed. **Rice's Hotel/ Hughlett's Tavern** in Heathsville was built in 1795 behind the Northumberland County Courthouse. The original three-room tavern has been expanded over the years to its present 24-room, two-story structure. The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is being restored to include exhibits, a gift shop and a Colonial-style restaurant. Tours can be arranged by calling ☎ 804-462-5770. There is a gift shop next door in the Old Jail.

Be sure to drop in at the **Ball Memorial Museum and Library**, operated by the Northumberland County Historical Society, also located on Courthouse Square at 86 Back Street. Pick up a walking tour map of Heathsville. The Society has a research staff and an extensive library of genealogical and historical records. It is open Tuesday through Thursday from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. ☎ 804-580-8581.

From Heathsville, take Route 360 to the junction of Route 604 and the **Scenic Byway**. The Scenic Byway offers a pleasant drive, views of the Chesapeake Bay and Smith Point Lighthouse, and is a fun trip across the water by way of the Sunnybank Ferry. From the ferry, follow the signs along the route to **Reedville** and the Fisherman's Museum.

**The Reedville Fishermen's Museum** is composed of two buildings. The Walker House is interpreted as a fisherman's home at the turn of the century. The Covington Gallery features the permanent menhaden industry exhibits and three special exhibits each year. There is also a heritage boat collection, which includes the *Elva C.*, a restored 1922 workboat.

By the early 1900s the fishing industry had been so good to Reedville it was reputed to be the richest town per capita in the United States. Reedville's opulent era and its history are interpreted through the many interesting exhibits in the museum, and through the fine old Victorian mansions on Main Street. For information on the museum, ☎ 804-453-6529.

On your return trip to **Burgess**, take the scenic byway by following Route 644 through nice farmland and cross the Little Wilcomico River on the Sunnybank Ferry, a free shuttle that operates Monday through Saturday.

From Burgess you will need to turn south on Route 200 and follow it through **Kilmarnock**, where you may want to stop and browse through the gift shops and antique gallery on Main Street. Continue to **Irvington** and Christ Church. If you'd like to enjoy some wonderful scenery along the may, you might take the scenic detour which begins just south of Wicomico Church and rejoins Route 200 just outside Kilmarnock.

**Historic Christ Church** in Irvington is perhaps the best example of a virtually unchanged Colonial church in America. The church is massive, with walls three feet thick and built in the form of a cross. The floors of the nave and transepts are the original limestone slabs. A three-decker pulpit dominates the choir, congregation and the individually enclosed high-backed pews. The 18th-century structure is a masterpiece of religious architecture and well worth a visit. A video presentation, narrated by Roger Mudd, is shown in the reception area interprets the church's history and prepares you for the tour. Open daily. ☎ 804-438-6855.

From Irvington, take Route 200 north to the junction with Route 3 in Kilmarnock, turn west on Route 3 and drive on into Lancaster.

**Historic Lancaster** is a tiny town of only 150 population. The family of Mary Ball Washington, George Washington's mother, was among the early settlers in the Lancaster area. Mary Ball Washington herself was born nearby at Epping Forest, and many of Washington's maternal ancestors are buried in the churchyard of **St. Mary's Whitechapel Church** five miles west of Lancaster on Route 622. **Lancaster's County Courthouse**, in the historic district and surrounded by sycamore trees,

is an antebellum courthouse built around the beginning of the Civil War in 1860. The marble obelisk is one of the first monuments erected to Confederate soldiers.

**The Mary Ball Washington Museum and Library** is also in Lancaster's historic district. Lancaster House, which houses the museum, was built in 1800 and is part of a complex that also contains the Old Clerk's Office and the Old Jail. The many exhibits featured in the museum include artifacts and memorabilia from the Ball family history, watermen's tools of the trade, archaeological artifacts, paintings, pictures, quilts, costumes and children's toys. Of special interest are the recently restored Civil War flags and banners that once belonged to the Lancaster County unit of the Confederate army. The Old Clerk's Office, built in 1797, and the Old Jail, built in 1820, are also open to the public. The Old Jail is maintained as a living history museum. It contains a criminal cell along with the living quarters of a jailer in the early 19th century. The museum complex is open from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m., Wednesday through Friday, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. on Saturday, and by appointment on Tuesday. ☎ 804-462-7280.

From Lancaster, continue westward along Route 3 to Warsaw, the final stop on your tour of Virginia's Northern Neck.

**The Richmond County Museum** has recently relocated to the Old Jail on Courthouse Green. The museum offers a small glimpse into Richmond County's past. The displays of domestic and agricultural memorabilia depict and preserve the rural lifestyle that has characterized Richmond County since its earliest days. Warsaw, originally named Richmond Court House, has been the county seat for more than 150 years. It was renamed in 1831 in sympathy with the Polish struggle for liberty. Today, located as it is on one of the Northern Neck's busiest highways, Warsaw has become something of a commercial center for a variety of shops, stores and restaurants. The old courthouse, also located on the Courthouse Green, was built in 1748 and is still in use to this day. The museum is open February 1 through mid-December, Wednesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. ☎ 804-333-3607.



## *Annual Events*

**The Historic Garden Week Northern Neck Tours**. Held the third week in April and organized by the Garden Club of Northern Neck. ☎ 800-393-6180.

**The Blessing of the Fleet**, the first Sunday in May, is the annual dedication of the Menhaden Fishing Fleet at Reedville. The celebration includes a parade of boats and the Reedville Chantey Singers. ☎ 804-453-6529.

**The Annual Reedville Bluefish Derby**, the second weekend in June, includes a fishing tournament, nightly activities, arts & crafts, food, and nightly entertainment. ☎ 804-453-5325.

**The Annual Potomac River Festival** is held in mid-May at Colonial Beach. Fireman's parade, boat parade and fireworks. ☎ 804-224-0732.

**An Old-Fashioned 4th of July**, Reedville, includes a parade, flea market, arts & crafts, tours of local fishing boats, a walking tour, and special exhibits at the Fisherman's Museum. ☎ 804-453-6529.

**The Richmond County Fair**, held on the Richmond County Fairgrounds at the end of August, features demonstrations, livestock, farm produce, and a variety of competitions. ☎ 804-333-3420.

## *Recreation*

The Northern Neck is a boating and fishing paradise. Wherever you go, you're never very far from a marina or boat landing. Surrounded on three sides by water, the Northern Neck offers endless possibilities for boating, fishing or cruising. Bring your own canoe, sailboat, motor boat, or fishing boat and make use of any number of public launching ramps for a day on the bay, rivers, streams and creeks. You don't own a boat? Don't worry, there are dozens of friendly charter boat captains ready and willing to see to your every water-borne need, from deep-sea fishing to simply cruising the Chesapeake Bay. For more information, contact the Northern Neck Tourism Council, PO Box 1707, Warsaw, VA 22572, ☎ 800-393-6180, or any one of the information centers listed under *Information* on page 258.

### *Boat Cruises*

**Tangier Island Cruise** leaves from Reedville, operating May through mid-October. Reservations are required. ☎ 804-453-2628.

**Smith Island Cruise** operates from Reedville May through mid-October. ☎ 804-453-3430 for reservations.

### *Fishing*

Fishing opportunities on the Northern Neck are exciting. The great variety and quality of the available species make it one of the finest fishing areas on the East Coast. Every year, anglers from across the United States make their way to the peninsula to try their luck, either in the tidewater rivers or on the Chesapeake Bay. No matter what your level of skill, you're sure of a great experience.

During April and May, the striped bass move up the bay to spawn. The once depleted stock has recovered and more and more large catches are reported every year. The striped bass also runs during the fall and winter months from October through December.

By May the "chopper" bluefish will be running. Anglers enjoy great sport as fish of up to 20 pounds slam into their tackle and fight every inch of the way into the boat. By June the smaller, but no less aggressive "taylor" bluefish will have arrived in the Bay. The action continues from May through November when the last "choppers" leave. Pound for pound, the bluefish ranks among the top of the world's gamefish.

May also brings the beginning of bottom fishing to the Bay. Good fishing spots can be found close in as well as offshore. The near-shore locations are especially well suited for smaller boats. Anglers can expect to catch a variety of species, including croaker, spot, trout and flounder.

By mid-summer the action includes the Spanish mackerel, a beautifully colored fish given to leaping gracefully from the water. The Spanish mackerel offers good sport and fine eating.

## *Swimming*

If you're looking for a vacation of fun in the sun, a secluded sandy beach on the warm waters of the Chesapeake Bay, or a rocky outcrop where you can toast your body on a warm afternoon, you should check out the many coves and inlets on the eastern shore of the Northern Neck.

There are public beaches at Colonial Beach, Hughlettt's Point Natural Area, VirMar Beach in Northumberland County, Westland Beach in Lancaster County, and Westmoreland State Park.

## *Natural Areas*

There's something about a day out in the country exploring the tiny back roads and bays along the river banks and the shores of the Chesapeake Bay. The days are warm and still, the air alive with the sounds and fragrance of spring and early summer. A brook trickles among the wildflowers in a country meadow. A songbird trills high in an old oak tree, and the dull buzz of insects can be heard. Add an afternoon at a country fair, followed by a stop at the Ingleside Plantation Winery (see page 248) for a tour of the vineyard and a taste of the local product, and you're sure of an experience you will never forget.

The Northern Neck has hundreds of hiking trails meander through the woods, fields and marshes, along the river banks and the shores and inlets of the Chesapeake Bay. **Westmoreland State Park**, off Route 3 near Montross, has a number of interesting trails, as do **George Washington's Birthplace** near Oak Grove and **Stratford Hall** in Stratford.

**The Caledon Natural Area**, just off Highway 301 in King George County, is one of the best places in the United States to observe the bald eagle and one of the most significant eagle summering areas on the East Coast. You can take a ranger-led eagle-watching tour and observe the birds in their native habitat, feeding, soaring or perching high in the treetops along the banks of the Potomac River. Tours are available by reser-

vation only, June through September. Be sure to bring your camera. ☎ 540-663-3861.

**Hughlett Point Natural Area** on the Chesapeake Bay offers trails, a woodland boardwalk and wildlife viewing platforms. ☎ 804-684-7577.

### *Golf*

**Bushfield Golf Course**, in Mt. Holly, ☎ 804-472-2602, is a small nine-hole public country club.

**Golf at the Tides Resorts in Irvington.** Three different courses to suit your style of play. The Golden Eagle, ☎ 804-438-5501; The Executive Nine, ☎ 804-438-4454; and The Tartan, ☎ 804-438-6200.

**Quinton Oaks Golf Course**, in Callao, ☎ 804-529-5367, has 18 holes, a driving range and a practice green.

**Windjammer at Windmill Point Resort**, ☎ 804-435-1166.

### *Horseback Riding*

**Breezewood Farms**, in Irvington, ☎ 804-438-5141, offers guided trail rides and lessons.

## *Shopping*

You won't find great shopping malls on Virginia's Northern Neck, but the small country towns and villages, the resorts, and the highways and byways abound with tiny shops and stores to delight even the most discerning taste. Tiny antique shops, art galleries and gift shops are found virtually around every corner.

## *Dining*

**Wilkerson's Restaurant**, 3900 McKinney Boulevard, Colonial Beach, ☎ 804-224-7117, is on the waterfront and features crabcakes, rockfish and more.

**Stratford Hall Plantation Dining Room**, Route 214, Stratford, ☎ 804-493-9796, serves gourmet food in the birthplace of Robert E. Lee.

The **Driftwood Restaurant**, on Highway 612 in Cole's Point, ☎ 804-472-3892, serves fresh seafood and steak. Closed Mondays.

**Kinsale Harbour Yacht Club and Restaurant**, off Route 203 on Kinsdale Bridge Road in Kinsale, ☎ 804-472-2514, touts itself as the "Northern Neck's one of a kind fine dining experience."

**Good Eats Café**, Route 202 and 203 in Kinsale, ☎ 804-472-4385, features Chesapeake classics and new dishes served in a casual atmosphere. Dinner is served Wednesday through Sunday.

**Bambery's on the Green** is on the ninth green of the Village Green Golf Course in Callao, ☎ 804-529-5200. Seafood and steak specialties are carefully prepared and served. Open for lunch and dinner.

**The Little People's Guild & Café Lotte**, at Routes 360 and 614 in Lottsburg, ☎ 804-529-5938, is like stepping back in time to the Victorian era. Lunch is served Monday through Saturday, dinner Friday and Saturday. There is a year-round Christmas market, and a wine, beer and gourmet food shop.

**Rosie Lee's Restaurant** in Burgess, ☎ 804-453-6211, offers casual dining for all the family.

**The Crazy Crab**, at the foot of Main Street on Cockrell's Creek in Reedville, ☎ 804-453-6789, is a fun place for lunch or dinner, and offers a panoramic water view. It is closed Mondays.

**Elijah's Restaurant**, 729 Main Street in Reedville, ☎ 804-453-3621, serves lunch and dinner in the restored 1800s Reedville Market on the waterfront.

**Fairport Marina & Restaurant**, on Cockrell's Creek in Reedville, ☎ 804-453-5002, serves fresh seafood for lunch and dinner daily.

**Chesapeake Café**, on Route 3 in Kilmarnock, ☎ 804-435-3250, features local seafood and crab. It is open for lunch and dinner Monday through Saturday.

**The Crab Shack**, 236 Oyster Shell Road in Kilmarnock, ☎ 804-435-2700, is on the waterfront and offers a fresh catch daily. Lunch and dinner are served Tuesday through Sunday.

**De' Medici Ristorante**, 51 School Street in Kilmarnock, ☎ 804-435-4006, is inside a shopping center, but has an elegant atmosphere nonetheless. House specialties are shellfish and veal, and desserts are delicious.

**Cap'n B's Restaurant**, on Route 646 at the Golden Eagle Golf Course in Irvington, ☎ 804-438-5500, is open for lunch from 11:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. The menu is semi-à la carte and the specialties of the house include crab cakes, chicken salad, and oyster loaf.

**Sandpiper Restaurant**, on Route 3 in White Stone, ☎ 804-435-6176, specializes in steak and seafood in a casual atmosphere.

**Willaby's**, on Route 3 in White Stone, ☎ 804-435-0044, features daily specials, gourmet burgers and homemade desserts and special sauces. Lunch is served Monday through Saturday.

# Northern Neck Accommodations

Most establishments offer both handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms, but be sure to ask when making reservations.

## Hotels & Motels

**Colonial Beach Days Inn**, Colonial Beach, ☎ 804-224-0404, overlooks the Potomac River and has 60 guest rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms and an outdoor pool. It offers guests a free continental breakfast. $$

**The Inn at Montross** is on Courthouse Square in Montross, ☎ 804-493-0573. This small hotel was originally built in 1683. Facilities include five guest rooms with four-poster beds, original antiques and primitive and modern art. The rates include a free continental breakfast. The dining room is open to the public for lunch and dinner. $$

**Cole's Point Plantation**, on Route 728 in Cole's Point, ☎ 804-472-3955, 804-472-4761 (restaurant), has a marina, restaurant and campground. There is a swimming pool, rental cottages and boat rentals. $$

**Best Western Warsaw**, 4522 Richmond Road, Warsaw, ☎ 804-333-1700, has 35 rooms and an outdoor swimming pool. $$

**The Tides**, on King Carter Drive and historic Carter's Creek in Irvington, ☎ 800-843-3746 or 804-438-5000, is a resort that offers just about everything for an all-inclusive vacation from supervised children's activities to golf, tennis, boating, yachting, canoeing and cruising. It sits on 25 landscaped acres, on a hill surrounded by water on three sides. The inn has 134 rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms, two restaurants, its own private beach, bicycles and paddleboats, and a walking trail. There is also a lodge with 60 units, suites and cottages, and a fine dining room open to the public for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Facilities include two pools, one saltwater and one heated; poolside service; free supervised children's activities; lighted tennis courts; 45 holes of some of the best golf in Virginia; and a marina. $$$

**Whispering Pines Motel** at 226 Methodist Church Road, White Stone, ☎ 804-435-1101, has 30 guest rooms, a swimming pool, a wading pool, and cable TV. There's a café close by. $$

**The Windmill Point Resort and Marina**, 56 Windjammer Lane, Windmill Point, ☎ 804-435-1166, offers 60 waterfront rooms, two swimming pools, three tennis courts, golf and a mile of sandy beach, all in a friendly atmosphere. $$$

## Bed & Breakfasts / Inns

**'Tween Rivers Bed & Breakfast**, 16006 Kings Highway, Montross, ☎ 804-493-0692 or 800-485-5777, has three rooms with private baths. It

is nicely decorated with period furnishings, Oriental rugs and luxury linens. A full breakfast is served, and the entire inn is non-smoking. $$

**Mt. Holly Steamboat Inn**, on Nomini Creek in Mt. Holly, ☎ 804-472-3336, features outdoor patio dining, weekend brunches and lodging packages. There are eight rooms, two of them with a shared bath. $$

**Historic Bushfield Manor Bed and Breakfast**, also on Nomini Creek in Mt. Holly, ☎ 804-472-4171, is open only in summer. There are six rooms, five with private baths. The Washington Family Cemetery is on the grounds. $$$

**The Skipjack Inn** at Port Kinsale Marina & Resort, Kinsale, ☎ 804-472-2044, has three rooms and a swimming pool. Continental breakfast; dining is offered at the Mooring Restaurant. $$

**Strangers In Good Company**, 170 Bell's Cove Road in Callao, ☎ 804-529-5132, has two rooms and a cottage. Victorian decor in a 150-year-old farmhouse. $$

**The Bailey-Cockrell House**, 793 Main Street, Reedville, ☎ 804-453-5900, is a Victorian home with three rooms, a water view, and a rental cottage on the Bay. $$$

**The Gables**, 859 Main Street in Reedville, just off Cockrell's Creek, ☎ 804-453-5209, is a unique Victorian brick mansion with a fascinating history. The five-level home was built in 1909 by a sea captain who brought the bricks in on his three-masted schooner to build the house and the bank across the street. When he retired, the schooner was built into the top two levels of the home, with the mast through the center of the home. There are two guest rooms with water views, and bathrooms across the hall from each. The owners are currently renovating a carriage house that will offer two suites, one handicapped-accessible, a dining area, and a gift shop. $$-$$$

**The Morris House Bed and Breakfast Inn**, 826 Main Street in Reedville, ☎ 804-453-7016, is an 1895 Victorian inn with a private dock, full breakfast, fireplaces and waterfront views from every room. There are five rooms, all with private baths. $$-$$$

**The Inn at Levelfields**, Route 3 in Lancaster, ☎ 804-435-6887 or 800-238-5578, features antiques, a gourmet breakfast, four rooms, all with private baths and fireplaces. $$

**Flowering Fields Bed & Breakfast**, 232 Flowering Field, White Stone, ☎ 804-435-6238, has four rooms and offers a full breakfast with crab cakes and omelets on the menu. $$

## *Camping*

**Monroe Bay Campground** in Colonial Beach, ☎ 804-224-7418, is a bayside campground with 350 sites – 92 with full hookups. Facilities include flush toilets, hot showers, a grocery store, and sewage disposal. There is a recreation room, a pavilion, saltwater swimming, saltwater and pond fishing, boating, boat ramps, a basketball court and a playground.

**Westmoreland State Park** in Montross, ☎ 804-493-8821, has 98 camp sites, 40 with water and electric hookups and 58 with no hookups. Facilities include flush toilets, hot showers, and sewage disposal. There is a pavilion, swimming, lake fishing, boating, boat ramps, boat rentals, and hiking trails.

**Heritage Park Resort**, on Newland Road on Cat Point Creek in Warsaw, ☎ 804-333-4038, has an Olympic-sized swimming pool, canoeing, fishing, full hookups and is open year-round.

**The Chesapeake Bay/Smith Island KOA and Marina**, Reedville, ☎ 804-453-3430, is a riverside campground with 70 semi-wooded sites – 17 with full hookups, and some on the waterfront. Facilities include 55 pull-throughs, 11 cabins, flush toilets, hot showers, a limited grocery store, and sewage disposal. There is a recreation room, a pavilion, a swimming pool, boat rentals, river swimming, fishing, boat ramps, minigolf and a playground.

## *Information*

For assistance planning your visit to the Northern Neck, or for further information and brochures, you can contact any of the following organizations.

**The Northern Neck Tourism Council**, PO Box 1707, Warsaw, VA 22572, ☎ 800-393-6180, www.northernneck.org.

**The Potomac Gateway Welcome Center**, 3540 James Madison Parkway, King George, VA 22485. ☎ 540-663-3205.

**The Westmoreland County Department of Tourism**, 111 Polk Street (PO Box 996), Montross, VA 22520. ☎ 888-SEEWCVA.

**The Colonial Beach Tourism Council**, 18 N. Irving Avenue, Colonial Beach, VA 22443. ☎ 804-224-0732.

**The Lancaster County Visitors Center**, 453-A N. Main Street, Kilmarnock, ☎ 800-579-9102 or www.lancasterva.com.

**Warsaw-Richmond County Chamber of Commerce**, PO Box 1141, Warsaw, VA 22572, ☎ 804-333-4260.

# Chesapeake Bay's Middle Peninsula

The name says it all. The Middle Peninsula, or "Mid-Pen" to locals, is the finger of land located between the Virginia Peninsula (Hampton and Newport News) and the Northern Neck. This rural area, still largely agricultural, features meandering back roads, miles and miles of coastline, and a rich Colonial history. Follow these back roads and you'll find gorgeous river plantations, historic sites and delicious seafood restaurants. The waters of the Chesapeake Bay and the York and Rappahannock rivers still provide a livelihood for many, while the "courthouses" of Gloucester, Tappahannock and the city of West Point are growing yearly. The Mid-Pen includes the counties of Essex, Middlesex, Gloucester and King William.

## Essex County & Tappahannock

Essex County is on the southern shore of the Rappahannock River in the heart of the Middle Peninsula. It's an area that depends upon the waters of the Rappahannock and the Chesapeake Bay. Recreation, fishing and tourism account for much of its income. Although its population is relatively small, Essex County and its seat, Tappahannock, have much to offer. For the outdoor lover there's fishing, boating, cruising, hunting, and golf. For the antique buff, there are numerous antique shops located both in Tappahannock and out in the county. And, just as in any other Tidewater community, the people are friendly and outgoing, and visitors are always welcome.



### *History*

Although there is archaeological evidence of human occupation as far back as 12,000 BC, Essex County's recorded history dates from around the time of Captain John Smith's epic voyage of the winter of 1607-08. Since that time the area has seen a number of changes, not the least being its constantly changing name.

In 1645, Bartholomew Hoskins patented the Tappahannock site, which became known at first as Hobbs His Hole (or deep anchorage). That name was later shortened to Hobbs's Hole. Next it was called New Plymouth, but not for long. Finally, it became Tappahannock, Indian for "place of tidal waters."

Essex County, named for the English Earl of Essex, is the result of the division of the Old Rappahannock County made in 1692. Back then, Rappahannock County encompassed territory that today includes some 50 modern counties in Virginia and West Virginia. The division was made along the river. The northern side became Richmond County on the Northern Neck; the southern side became Essex County.

Bacon's rebellion against the Colonial governor in 1676 brought armed conflict to the area. Nathaniel Bacon was a young English planter who was outraged at the way the new colony was being misgoverned by Sir William Berkeley. When Berkeley refused to take measures to stop the Indian attacks, Bacon decided to take on the task himself. But Bacon's movement soon broadened into open rebellion against the local aristocracy as dissatisfaction with Berkeley grew. Bacon's men defeated Governor Berkeley's cavalrymen, first at Picataway Creek, and then in the Dragon Swamp. The rebellion ended suddenly when Bacon died soon after his followers had burned Jamestown and driven Berkeley and his followers into refuge on board an English man-o'-war.

Bacon's rebellion was followed by the French and Indian War of the 1750s. The men of the Essex Militia, many of them gentlemen officers, including Colonel Joshua Fry who preceded George Washington as commander of Virginia's forces, were sent off to fight for king and colony.

The Stamp Act of 1765 led ultimately to the American Revolution and one of its first confrontations in Tappahannock. On the evening of February 27, 1766, gentlemen from nine counties gathered at Leedstown to draft the resolutions that led Virginians to disobey the English Parliament. They also resolved to publicly humiliate one of the community's leading merchants and staunch supporters of the Stamp Act, Archibald Ritchie. Richard Henry Lee called Ritchie "the greatest enemy of his country." These momentous events all took place some seven years before the Boston Tea Party.

During the Civil War years Tappahannock was the training post for the 55th Virginia Infantry Regiment.

After the Civil War, the present Essex County and Tappahannock resumed their quiet rural existence and the area soon became one of those sleepy little backwaters where the pace is a little slower and the quality of life a little better.

## *Sights*

There are dozens of historic houses and interesting places to visit within the boundaries of Essex County. Tappahannock's historic district alone has 15. The half-dozen attractions listed here represent only a small portion of what awaits. For more information and a complete listing, contact

the Tappahannock-Essex County Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 481, Tappahannock, VA 22560. ☎ 804-443-5241.

**Essex County Museum**, 227 Prince Street, Tappahannock, ☎ 804-443-4690, exhibits artifacts of local history from the last 300 years.

**Essex County Courthouse**, built in 1848 to replace the old courthouse, now the Beale Baptist Church, is a construction of largely Greek Revival design incorporating some Federal features. For many years the courthouse has housed the largest collection of portraits in the county. Unfortunately, the collection suffered many losses during a fire in 1965. Even so, dozens of portraits of Essex County leaders over the past 200 years still remain for all to enjoy.

**The Beale Memorial Baptist Church**, on Church Street, is a Greek Revival structure incorporating the wall of the original county courthouse. The old building has a long and interesting history. Built in 1728, it was the center of justice in the county for 120 years until the new courthouse was built in 1848. For a while the building was little used. Then, in 1874, the Tappahannock Baptists organized the Centennial Baptist Church. The Reverend Frank Beale, the son of Colonel Beale of the 9th Virginia Cavalry, was named the new church's first pastor and the congregation moved into the old courthouse in 1878. Frank Beale led the Centennial Church for more than 30 years so it was no real surprise when, only weeks after his death in 1908, it was renamed in his honor.

**The Customs House**, close to waterfront on the Rappahannock River at the foot of Prince Street, is now a private home. The house was built in the early 1800s on a lot once owned by Archibald Ritchie, and was the original location of Whitlock's Ordinary, a popular gathering place for the local gentry.

**The Scots Arms Tavern**, on Price Street, was built in 1680 and has been owned and maintained by the Derieux family for more than a century. Today, the old tavern is a private residence.

**The Ritchie House**, at the corner of Prince and Cross Streets, is one of the oldest buildings in Tappahannock. It's a wonderful old property that faithfully reflects the times when Archibald Ritchie played out his role in the American Revolution. The original, ornate paneling was removed in the 1930s and can be seen on display in the Tappahannock and Essex rooms at the Winterhur Museum in Wilmington, Delaware. The Ritchie House is now a private law office, open by appointment, ☎ 804-443-3368.

**Wheatland** and its gardens overlook Saunder's Wharf, the only steamboat landing remaining on the Rappahannock River. The old house was built sometime during the early 1800s and characterizes the transition between the Federal and Greek Revival styles of architecture. The two-story porticos at the front and rear of the large rectangular frame provide the old house with a somewhat stately appearance. Wheatland is a private residence, not open to the public.

## Shopping

Tappahannock and Essex County offer a number of shopping opportunities, especially antique shops. Although there are no giant malls and department stores, the Rappahannock Shopping Center provides most local needs. Beyond that, the quaint little country stores of the area, so much associated with rural Virginia, provide an old-world ambiance most people find hard to resist.

## Dining

**Lowery's Seafood Restaurant**, on Church Lane (US 17), has offered good food at reasonable prices in a quiet family atmosphere since 1938. The restaurant specializes in local seafood and is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner seven days a week. ☎ 804-433-2800.

**Roma's Italian Restaurant**, in the Rappahannock Shopping Center, offers "Italian food at its best," along with daily specials and a Thursday Italian and American buffet. ☎ 804-443-5240.

## Accommodations

Most establishments offer both handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms, but be sure to ask when making reservations.

### Hotels & Motels

**The Days Inn**, at the junction of US Highway 17 and Route 360, ☎ 800-325-2525 or 804-443-9200, has 60 rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. Rates include a free continental breakfast and cable TV. $$

**The Super 8 Motel**, at the junction of US Highway 17 and Route 360, ☎ 804-443-3888, has 43 rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. Rates include coffee in the lobby, a continental breakfast and cable TV. The motel has a meeting room and there's a café nearby. $$

### Bed & Breakfasts / Inns

**The Linden House B&B Plantation**, 11770 Tidewater Trail in Champlain, ☎ 800-622-1202 or 804-443-1170, is a restored planter's home built around 1750. The inn has four guest rooms and two suites, each individually named and decorated with country furnishing and antiques. All have private baths and are non-smoking. Set on more than 200 acres of Virginia's most beautiful countryside, it has a magnificent English Garden, five porches and a gazebo where guests can enjoy the view sipping a glass

of lemonade or a cup of coffee. A full plantation breakfast is served. Children over 12 are permitted. No pets. $$-$$$

**Little Greenway B&B**, 431 Prince Street, Tappahannock, ☎ 804-443-5747, has two rooms with private bath and offers a full breakfast. Victorian home furnished with period furniture. Children four and up are welcome. No pets. $$

## *Recreation*

**The Woodside Country Club**, some four miles north of Tappahannock on Route 17, offers guests a small, but challenging nine-hole course set in the midst of some of Virginia's most beautiful wooded terrain. There is a pro shop, a snack bar with a view, golf carts and Bob Templeton, the local PGA professional. ☎ 804-443-4060.

**Hobb's Hole** is an 18-hole course just south of Tappahannock, ☎ 804-443-4500.

**Garrett's Marina**, on Route 17 at Bowler's Wharf, provides access to the Rappahannock River for anglers and boaters. Facilities include a boat ramp, boat rentals, a snack bar, restrooms, gas and fuel service and a ship's store. ☎ 804-443-2573.

**June Parker Marina** is also on the Rappahannock River, ☎ 804-443-2131.

**Rappahannock River Cruises**, a Reedville-based company on the Northern Neck, offers daily cruises on the Rappahannock, departing from Hoskin's Creek, Tappahannock, at 10 a.m., and returning at 5 p.m. The cruise takes in all the sights and sounds along the river. Stops along the way include the Ingleside Winery, for a tour and wine tasting, and Wheatland, the only remaining steamboat landing on the Rappahannock. For more information and reservations, ☎ 804-598-2628.



## *Information*

**Tappahannock-Essex County Chamber of Commerce**, Courthouse Square, PO Box 481, Tappahannock, VA 22560. ☎ 804-443-5241. The Chamber is open weekdays from 8:30 a.m., until 4:30 p.m.

# Gloucester County

Gloucester County, on the tip of the Middle Peninsula, is where Pocahontas saved the life of Capt. John Smith, Dr. Walter Reed, conquerer of yellow fever, was born, and a visitor can sense the long-ago life of a gentile leisure class peculiar to this region of Virginia.

It can't be proven conclusively whether Pocahontas was born in Gloucester County. She did, however, live here as a young girl. Her father, Powhatan, and the tribe spent much of their time at what was then known as Werewicomico on Timberneck Creek.

There are numerous historic sites and markers throughout Gloucester County's bucolic countryside. The key to getting around is learning the different place names – and being sure to pronounce it "Gloss-ter" should you get lost and need directions. The "Courthouse" is the county's historic district, with a Court Green dating to the mid-1700s, and quaint shops lining the main street. In White Marsh, you can see the large old tobacco estates that made the fortunes of early settlers. In insulated communities like Guinea, people have been harvesting the waters for generations.

Gloucester Point's location at the mouth of the York River has made it a strategic point in American history. French warships once moored offshore, enforcing an embargo that eventually forced British General Cornwalis to surrender, ending the Revolutionary War. Today, the Point is home to the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, a ground-breaking marine science school affiliated with the College of William & Mary.

While farming and fishing remain important vocations in Gloucester County, the area is increasingly becoming a bedroom community to the growing Hampton Roads area, with lots of houses where farms once stood and shopping centers springing up along the main highway, Route 17.

For most residents, however, the quiet rural life is still the norm. Visitors can tap into it by taking their time meandering throughout the countryside.

## *Sights*

**Abingdon Episcopal Church**, on Route 17 near White Marsh is one of the oldest parishes in the state. The original church was built about 1655, the present church in 1755. Many of Gloucester's early prominent residents are buried in the cemetery, which is open daily to the public. ☎ 804-693-3035 for opening hours of the church.

**Gloucester Courthouse** is the local term for the county seat, and also refers to the 1766 courthouse complex. The preserved brick Colonial buildings and are surrounded by a low brick wall and the main street which encircles it. There is a debtor's prison, tavern, and county museum. Nearby is a statue of Princess Pocahontas. ☎ 804-693-2355.

**Gloucester Museum of History**, ☎ 804-693-2659 or 804-693-3196, located in the historic Courthouse area. The museum is open Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. and on Saturdays from noon until 4 p.m., and by appointment.

The **Rosewell Ruins** are the skelatal remains of a 1725 manor home that burned in 1916. It is said the architecture and grandeur of Rosewell rivaled the Governor's Palace in Williamsburg; it was definitely considered one of the finest examples of Georgian architecture in the colonies. Today the site is undergoing archeological excavation and restoration, and there is a new visitors center. Call The Rosewell Foundation for visiting hours, ☎ 804-693-2585.

**Virginia Institute of Marine Science**, at the base of the Coleman Bridge off Route 17, is a research facility of the College of William & Mary. Waterman's Hall features aquariums of indigenous fish and endangered sea turtles. There is also a touch tank with shellfish. Open 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Closed major holidays. ☎ 804-684-7000.

**Walter Reed's Birthplace** is a tiny, unassuming one-room farmhouse on Belroi Road, but the man born here certainly went on to bigger things – namely freeing mankind of the yellow fever scourge. Dr. Reed's experiments in Cuba in 1900 proved that yellow fever was carried by mosquitoes. The house is open during Daffodil Festival, Garden Week and by appointment. ☎ 804-693-7452.

## *Annual Events*

**The Annual Daffodil Festival**, the first weekend in April, celebrates Gloucester's world-famous daffodils. Call Gloucester Parks and Recreation, ☎ 804-693-2355.

**The Guinea Jubilee**, held in September at the Abingdon Ruritan Fair Grounds on Route 216 (Guinea Road), celebrates the harvest of Gloucester's waters with a carnival, oyster-shucking contests and plenty of seafood.

## *Recreation*

With 100 miles of shoreline, you're never more than a few minutes from the water in Gloucester County. The county's five rivers, dozens of tidal creeks, and the nearby Chesapeake Bay provide opportunities for fishing, boating and swimming. There are 14 public boat landings, five marinas, five parks, a public beach and two campgrounds.

**Beaverdam Park**, 8687 Roaring Springs Road, ☎ 804-693-2107, has freshwater lake fishing, boat ramps and rentals, hiking trails and picnicking.

**Dragon Run** is a swampy river that provides an interesting and unique canoe or kayak trip of about 25 miles. Call the Friends of Dragon Run, ☎ 757-484-9522.

**Gloucester Point Beach Park**, on the York River at the base of the Coleman Bridge, ☎ 804-642-9474, has a fishing pier, beach swimming, boat ramps, a shelter and a playground.

**Gloucester Point Campground**, 3149 Campground Road (follow signs from Route 17), ☎ 804-642-4316, has 235 sites with full hookups, a boat ramp, store, game room, two swimming pools, bathhouses and a playground. It is open year-round.

## *Dining*

**The Chesapeake Bay Prime Rib and Seafood Company**, 4329 George Washington Memorial Highway (Route 17), near Ordinary, ☎ 804-684-2222. The name says it all. Open for lunch and dinner, seven days a week, and breakfast on Sundays.

**Goodfellas**, on Route 17 in White Marsh, ☎ 804-693-5950, offers prime rib, seafood and pasta. It is open for dinner Tuesday through Saturday and Sunday from 11:30 a.m. until 10 p.m.

**Kelsick Gardens**, 6604 Main Street, Gloucester Courthouse, ☎ 804-693-6500, features daily lunch specials, gourmet sandwiches, wine and gifts. It is closed Sundays.

**Nick's Spaghetti & Steak House**, 1440 George Washington Memorial Highway (Route 17), Gloucester Point, ☎ 804-694-2330, is open daily for lunch and dinner, serving Italian dishes and seafood.

**The River's Inn**, 8109 Yacht Haven Drive near Gloucester Point, is located at a marina and most tables offer a water view of Sarah's Creek. Outside there is a seasonal crab deck; inside the atmosphere is elegant, yet casual. Specialties include seafood, duck, pork and other dishes. ☎ 804-642-9942.

**Rosalia's Italian Pizza and Restaurant**, 6545 Market Drive, in the Winn-Dixie shopping center on Route 17, ☎ 804-693-7960, is one of those great local Italian restaurants, short on formality and long on great food.

**Seafood & Yacht Club**, 9253 Rowes Point Road, Route 652, ☎ 804-642-0768.

**Seawell's Ordinary**, on Route 17, about five miles north of the Coleman Bridge, ☎ 804-642-3635, carries on the tradition in a 1712 building that became a public eating place or "ordinary" in 1757. Seafood and homemade desserts are its specialties.

**Stillwaters on Main**, 6553 Main Street, ☎ 804-694-5618, is a new restaurant in Gloucester Courthouse, offers a creative regional menu. It is open for lunch and dinner Tuesday through Saturday.

**Victoria's**, 6597 Main Street, ☎ 804-693-2826, is located in a charming old building in Gloucester Courthouse. Offers pizza, burgers, steaks and homemade desserts.

# Accommodations

Most establishments offer both handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms, but be sure to ask when making reservations.

## Hotels & Motels

**Comfort Inn**, on Route 17, one mile south of Gloucester Courthouse, has 79 rooms and offers a free continental breakfast.

**Gloucester Inn Motel**, 1408 George Washington Highway (Route 17), ☎ 804-642-3337, has 16 rooms, all with microwave and refrigerator. There is a restaurant next door and a beach and boat ramp a quarter-mile away. $-$$

**Tidewater Motel**, 3666 George Washington Memorial Highway (Route 17), ☎ 804-642-2155, has 38 rooms, 15 with kitchenettes. $-$$

## Bed & Breakfasts / Inns

**Airville Plantation**, 6423 T.C. Walker Road, ☎ 804-694-0287, has three rooms, one with private bath. This plantation is on 200 acres and is decorated with period furniture. Full breakfast served. There is a cottage, pool, beach, fishing and a dock. $$$

**The North River Inn**, 8777 Toddsbury Lane, ☎ 804-694-0216, has two rooms and three suites, all with private baths. The 100-acre 17th-century family-owned estate is on the water, and has a dock. A full breakfast is available on weekends. $$$

**The Willows B&B**, 5344 Roanes Wharf Road, ☎ 804-693-4066, has four room with private baths in a country setting; breakfasts are wonderful. The owner was formerly executive chef at Colonial Williamsburg. $$

# Information

Contact the **Gloucester Chamber of Commerce**, PO Box 296, Gloucester, VA 23061, ☎ 804-693-2425, or visit their Web site at www.co.gloucester.va.us.

You can order a brochure called *A Driving Tour of Gloucester County's Country Stores & Rural Post Offices* from the Parks and Recreation Department, ☎ 804-693-2355.

# Middlesex County

The Rappahannock and Piankatank Rivers form rural Middlesex County, with the tip extending into the Chesapeake Bay. This location made it a favorite of marauding pirates, and today among boaters, with more than 20 marinas in the county. The population centers include the county seat of **Saluda**, plus **Deltaville** and **Urbanna.**

Urbanna was one of the nation's first planned communities, laid out in 1681 and designated by the Colonial government as one of 20 ports through which all tobacco and imported goods would pass. Even though it was pillaged during the Revolution and attacked during the War of 1812 and the Civil War, there are many historic buildings left to see. Today fishermen still unload their catch as they have for centuries in the protected harbor which has become popular with recreational craft. Visitors can browse the antique shops and tour the historic sites, then dine with a water view and stay in a quaint old inn.

## *Sights*

There are more than a dozen historic sites in Urbanna, which are detailed in the brochure *A Self-Guided Walking Tour of Urbanna, Virginia*, available at the Town of Urbanna office at 45 Cross Street, ☎ 804-758-2613.

**The Old Tobacco Warehouse and Visitor Center**, constructed in 1766, is under renovation. When open again, it will house the visitor center and an exhibition area on the history of Urbanna. For more information, call the Town of Urbanna, ☎ 804-758-2613.

The **R.S. Bristow Store** on Cross Street, ☎ 804-758-2210, first opened in 1876 and is still a general store, selling "a little bit of everything," including clothes, shoes, housewares and gifts.

**The Old Courthouse** on Virginia Street is the oldest building left in Urbanna, built in 1748. It now houses the headquarters of the Middlesex County Women's Club.

**The Middlesex County Museum**, in Saluda, ☎ 804-758-3663, houses exhibits on the history of the county.

## *Dining & Accommodations*

Most establishments offer both handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms, but be sure to ask when making reservations.

**Atherston Hall B&B**, 250 Prince George Street, Urbanna, ☎ 804-758-2809, has four rooms, two with private baths. A full breakfast and after-

noon tea is served. No pets are allowed. Children are welcome with advance notice. Complimentary bikes are available. $$

**Debbie Hall**, on Fishing Bay Trace, Deltaville, ☎ 804-776-6800, has four condos that sleep up to six people each. Visit www.fishingbay.com for more information. $$$

**Eckhard's**, on Route 3 in Topping, ☎ 804-758-4060, serves classic German food, including schnitzel.

**Hewick Plantation**, Route 602 and 615, Urbanna, ☎ 804-758-4214 or 800-484-7514, has two rooms with private baths and offers a continental breakfast. This is a 1670 brick manor on 66 acres. The innkeepers are descendants of the builder, Christopher Robinson, a member of the House of Burgesses. $$-$$$

**The Inn at Urbanna**, 250 Virginia Street, ☎ 804-758-4852 or 888-758-4852, offers a raw bar, fine dining and lodging. Specialties include fresh-baked bread, crab dip and salads. Serves dinner daily, lunch on weekends. The inn has 12 guest rooms. $$

### *Camping*

**Bethpage Camp-Resort**, ☎ 804-758-4349, has 600 sites on Robinson Creek.

**Bush Park Campground**, ☎ 804-776-6750, has 400 sites on Bush Park Creek, near Urbanna.

**Cross Rip Campground**, ☎ 804-776-9324, is near Deltaville and has 44 sites.

**Dublfun Campground**, ☎ 804-758-5432, has 150 sites on the Rappahannock River.

**Grey's Point Camp-Resort**, ☎ 804-758-2485, in Topping has 400 sites on the Rappahannock River.



## *Annual Events*

**Family Fun Day** is held on Labor Day to benefit the Urbanna Fire Department. Horse and buggy rides, dunking booth and more.

**The Urbanna Oyster Festival** is a celebration of the harvest of the bay, held annually since 1958 on the first weekend in November. Oysters are served in every conceivable fashion, and a highlight is the Virginia State Oyster Shucking Contest. In 1988 the event was designated the "official" state oyster festival. ☎ 804-758-0368.

**A Christmas Parade** is held in Urbanna the first Saturday in December.

## *Information*

**The Urbanna Merchants Association**, PO Box 966, Urbanna, VA 23175, ☎ 800-523-4711.

**The Town of Urbanna**, ☎ 804-758-2613.

**Middlesex County Administrator's Office**, ☎ 804-758-4330**.**

# The West Point Area

West Point is one of those quiet, out-of-the-way places set in an area of great natural beauty with a wonderful quality of life.

The little town and its contiguous counties are about 45 minutes east of Virginia's capital, Richmond, and about an hour from the military and port complexes on the Chesapeake Bay. The West Point area consists of the town itself, King William, King and Queen, and New Kent Counties, and lies on a small peninsula at the head of the York River between the Pamunkey and Mattaponi Rivers.

Residents of the West Point area enjoy an uncrowded, unhurried, friendly environment that includes the one small town, West Point, surrounded by many outlying villages.

People who have been used to the heavily urbanized parts of the United States are pleasantly surprised by the many attractions and amenities in and around West Point, and many more within a short drive. Colonial Williamsburg and the cities of Richmond, Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk, Virginia Beach, and the Eastern Shore are all within easy driving distance.

## *History*

In 1653 a settler on the lower York, John West, patented 3,000 acres around the site of the now-abandoned Cinquoteck, and the neck of land thereafter known as West Point. West was the grandson of Thomas West, second Earl de la Warr, who had been governor of the first English settlement in early days.

During Bacon's rebellion against the English Royal government of Virginia in 1676, the local planters on the three rivers were staunch supporters of the cause. The rebellion ended somewhat prematurely when Bacon died of fever after having driven the Colonial governor, Sir William Berkeley, and his followers into refuge aboard an English warship. It was about that time the royal government sought to encourage the building of

tobacco towns and ports; one of them, at West Point, was to be called Delaware Town.

During the Revolutionary War of 1775-83, the little town became a port of entry for arms and supplies for George Washington's army. The heavy artillery used in the siege of Yorktown, sent over from France by King Louis XV, was assembled at Delaware Town for its return after the war had ended.

By the mid-19th century, the railroad had arrived in West Point. The Richmond and York River Railroad was completed in 1861 just as the great Civil War began. During the first year of the war West Point became a training camp for Confederate soldiers. Unfortunately, however, it was right in the path of General George McClellan's invading army on its march westward to capture the Confederate capital, Richmond. Robert E. Lee made good use of the railroad during his defense of the Confederate capital and, although Richmond didn't fall until 1865, the little railroad was completely destroyed. The railroad was rebuilt in 1870, and the town of West Point was incorporated that same year.

Northern financiers took over the railroad, established a link with the Richmond and Danville Railroad, and set up a regular steamship connection between West Point, Baltimore and other ports on the Chesapeake Bay. Unfortunately, the traffic soon outgrew the little port and the terminal was transferred to Portsmouth on Hampton Roads on January 1, 1896. The railroad remains, but the steamship service to Baltimore ended in 1941. The railroad is now a part of the Norfolk and Southern system.

The loss of the town's port status brought several years of depression, but a new source of income was developed when investors decided to bring the tourist industry to West Point. A large hotel was erected overlooking the York River and, in 1900, the Beach Park was completed. Soon hundreds of visitors were arriving daily by rail to enjoy the pleasant location, dining, dancing and many other amusements. Unfortunately, the fire destroyed the Beach Park complex in 1910, and the tourist industry had almost died out by the time the Terminal Hotel burned to the ground in 1926.

The downturn in the local economy after the death of tourism in the area ended, however, with the arrival of an Ohio-based pulp and paper mill in 1914. The company was purchased in 1918 by Elis Olsson, a Swedish-born engineer, and continues to flourish to this day as a part of the Chesapeake Corporation.

Today, West Point is not one of the places you'll find at the top of the nation's lists of holiday resorts. But it's a place where you can enjoy a quiet vacation, while still close enough to the action for a night of fine dining and entertainment.

# *Sights*

The landscape around the West Point area abounds in historic sites, and the three counties have more surviving Colonial churches than any others in Virginia.

**Colonial Downs**, in New Kent County, is Virginia' first horse race facility since the 1800s and features harness and thoroughbred racing, and polo. It is located at Exit 214 off I-64. ☎ 888-4VA-TRACK.

**Courthouse Green Historic District**, on Routes 681 and 655 at King and Queen Courthouse, ☎ 804-785-4420, dates back to 1690 and features a 19th-century tavern, jail, courthouse and other buildings.

**Historic Chelsea Plantation**, 874 Plantation Lane, Providence Forge, ☎ 804-843-2386, is open Thursday through Sunday from 10 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

**J.C. Graves Historic Museum**, ☎ 804-769-2357, is located in the New Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Route 633 near Walkerton. There are African-American and military history exhibits, and genealogical research. Open Friday through Saturday, 11 a.m. until 3 p.m.

**King William Courthouse**, circa 1725, is the oldest continually used courthouse in the nation.

**Mattaponi Indian Museum Minni Ha Ha Educational Trading Post**, Route 2, West Point, ☎ 804-769-2194, houses artifacts, including Pocahontas' necklace. There is also a nature trail.

**Mattaponi Indian Reservation**, two miles east of Route 30, near West Point, King William County, ☎ 804-769-4508. There is a museum and visitors should call ahead.

**Pamunkey Indian Reservation** is eight miles from Route 30 on Route 633 near West Point in King William County, ☎ 804-843-4740. It holds events throughout the year and the museum is open by appointment.

**Pamunkey and Mattaponi River Excursions** leave from the Pamunkey Indian Reservation. ☎ 804-769-0841.

**Powhatan's Legacy: Pamunkey-Mattaponi Trail** is a self-guided driving tour of 14 King William County historic homes, churches and buildings that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Brochures are available through the West Point Chamber of Commerce (☎ 804-843-4620), or King William County Offices (☎ 804-769-4927).

**The West Point Historic District** is a waterfront community of Victorian homes. For more information, contact the West Point Area Chamber of Commerce, ☎ 804-843-4620.

## Annual Events

**The Crab Carnival** draws thousands of people from all over Virginia to West Point the first Saturday in October each year. The event is a crab-lover's gourmet feast and a time for family fun that has grown increasingly popular over the years. From boats and from docks, everybody puts out crab lines or a crab pot. The event is a tribute to the "beautiful swimmers" that are the Chesapeake Bay blue crabs, and is staged by the West Point Chamber of Commerce with a great many volunteers. ☎ 804-843-4620.

## Recreation

Located as it is on the three rivers – the York, the Pamunkey and the Mattaponi – West Point is something of an outdoor and sportsman's paradise. The three counties are famous for deer, quail and a variety of other game. Several thousand acres of privately owned hunting land are open to the public on payment of a small charge for the season's hunting privilege.

Vast marshes and backwaters furnish a natural habitat for migrating ducks and geese. During the fall and early winter these become a hunter's paradise. The three rivers provide anglers with many opportunities to pursue their sport. Species available in the rivers include bass, pike, bream and shad.

A privately operated marina on the Mattaponi in West Point provides fuels and service, and public boat launching ramps and fueling stations are available.

**King William Park County Recreational Park**, ☎ 804-769-4280, has a playground, basketball courts, and several playing fields.

**The New Kent Nature Trail** helps to develop public appreciation for the area's natural resources. The trail passes through portions of a 565-acre forestry complex owned and managed by the Chesapeake Forest Products Company. The trail is designed to take hikers and walkers past as many interesting points as possible. Various species of plans and points of interest are marked with numbered stakes and the location of each is shown on a map in a booklet available from the West Point Chamber of Commerce. The total length of the trail is about 2½ miles and it may comfortably be hiked in about 3½ hours. However, the trail is divided into sections so you can return to the parking lot from either of two places without hiking the entire length of the footpath or retracing your footsteps. The sections vary in difficulty – the easiest and shortest is the red section. For more information and a descriptive booklet, contact either the Chesapeake Forest Products Company, ☎ 804-843-5402, or the Chamber of Commerce, 804-843-4620.

New Kent County has a fine and challenging 18-hole golf coursethe **Brookwood Golf Course**, ☎ 804-932-3737, 7325 Club Drive, off Highway 60 in Quinton. And the **West Point Country Club** has a nine-hole golf course, a swimming pool, picnic area, tennis courts and a 10-acre boating lake.

## *Culture & Entertainment*

While West Point is a very small rural town, culture is not lacking. Symphonies, recitals, chamber music, opera and plays all take place during the fall and winter months in Richmond, Williamsburg and the cities on Hampton Roads – all less than an hour away by road.

In Richmond alone, there are many museums and fine art galleries. These include the unique Museum of the Confederacy, the Valentine Museum and the White House of the Confederacy. The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts with its Paul Mellon collections and Russian crown jewels by Fabergé is also located in Richmond.

Other nearby attractions include the two Indian Reservations in King William County, Busch Gardens, Jamestown, Yorktown and Colonial Williamsburg.

## *Dining & Accommodations*

Most establishments offer both handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms, but be sure to ask when making reservations.

**The Washington Burgess Inn & Lighthouse Restaurant**, on Route 33 just outside West Point, ☎ 804-843-2100 (restaurant 804-843-3711), has 33 rooms, all with private baths, high ceilings and double beds. The inn stands on the original site of the Eltham Plantation where George Washington enjoyed Tidewater's still-abundant fishing and hunting. The restaurant serves seafood and steaks. From January-March it is open to groups only. $-$$

**The Jasmine Plantation Bed & Breakfast Inn** is between Williamsburg and Richmond in historic New Kent County, ☎ 804-966-2159. The inn is a fully restored 18th-century house built in 1750 and located on 47 acres of beautiful Virginia countryside. The Jasmine has six guest rooms decorated in various period antiques. Guests who are situated in rooms without connecting bathrooms are provided with plush terry robes. Visitors enjoy peace and quiet and a full country breakfast, served outdoors on the deck if weather permits. $$-$$$

**Tony & George's Seafood Restaurant**, 2880 King William Ave., West Point, ☎ 804-843-4448, is open daily for lunch and dinner.

## *Information*

For more information about the West Point area, contact the **West Point Area Chamber of Commerce**, 925 Main Street, West Point, VA 23181, ☎ 804-843-4620.

# *Central Virginia*

## Ashland & Hanover County

Ashland, located in Hanover County just 10 miles from Richmond, is an ideal jumping-off spot when sightseeing around Richmond, Colonial Williamsburg, Petersburg, Charlottesville or Fredericksburg. The sleepy little rural town is less than an hour from any one of them.

In Hanover, you can spend a day or two at Paramount's Kings Dominion – one of the nation's premiere theme parks – or visit the hallowed grounds at Scotchtown, the former home of Patrick Henry. You can also enjoy a leisurely stroll along the city streets of Ashland, take a side-trip to the Civil War battlefield at Cold Harbor, or simply relax for an afternoon's shopping and a quiet lunch far away from the strain and stress of big city life.

### *History*

Ashland developed as a "child of the railroad." In 1836, the **Richmond, Fredericksburg & Potomac Railroad Company** laid a single track line from Richmond to the South Anna River, through what is now Ashland. The railroad purchased much of the forested land along its right-of-way as a source of fuel for its steam engines. In 1845, it erected "a long, low building with a large room suitable for balls, picnics, etc.," on the site of the present Randolph-Macon College "Old Campus." The railroad called the new facility Slash Cottage and began to run excursions out of Richmond to the resort and to sell lots on each side of the tracks.

Soon the area developed as a summer resort with hotels, minerals springs, a horse racing track, and charming Victorian homes built facing the railroad tracks. The new town was incorporated in 1858. After the Civil War, Randolph-Macon College relocated to Ashland.

But Hanover County's roots go much further back, to 1720. The County was named for King George I of England. Prior to English colonization, the Pamunkey Indians populated the area. The county's northern boundary, the Pamunkey River, carries their name and they maintain a reservation on the lower section of the river in neighboring King William County.

During the 18th century Hanover was the center of the "Great Awakening" in Virginia led by the Reverend Samuel Davis who founded the Hanover Presbytery. Hanover County is also the birthplace of two great American patriots, Patrick Henry and Henry Clay.

During the 19th century Hanover played a major role in the Civil War. General Grant's Union Army crossed the Pamunkey River on its way to fight at Cold Harbor, and its strategic location just to the north of the Confederate capital of Richmond made it the site of numerous other battles and skirmishes.

Today, Hanover County is filled with reminders of its turbulent and often tragic past. Many 18th- and 19th-century homes have been preserved. Its historic sites and battlefields draw thousands of visitors to the area every year. But life in Hanover County continues much as it has for more than a century after the Civil War ended.

## *Sights*

**Ashland/Hanover Visitors Center**, 112 North Railroad Avenue, Ashland, ☎ 800-897-1479 or 804-752-6766, is located in the restored 1932 train station. Be sure to pick up the brochure, *Ashland Walking Tour,* a self-guided tour of sites including Cross Bros. Grocery; the Hanover Arts & Activities Center; the Ashland Presbyterian Church; the Masonic Hall; the Washington Franklin Hall; the College Chapel and the Macmurdo Home. The visitor center is open daily from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.

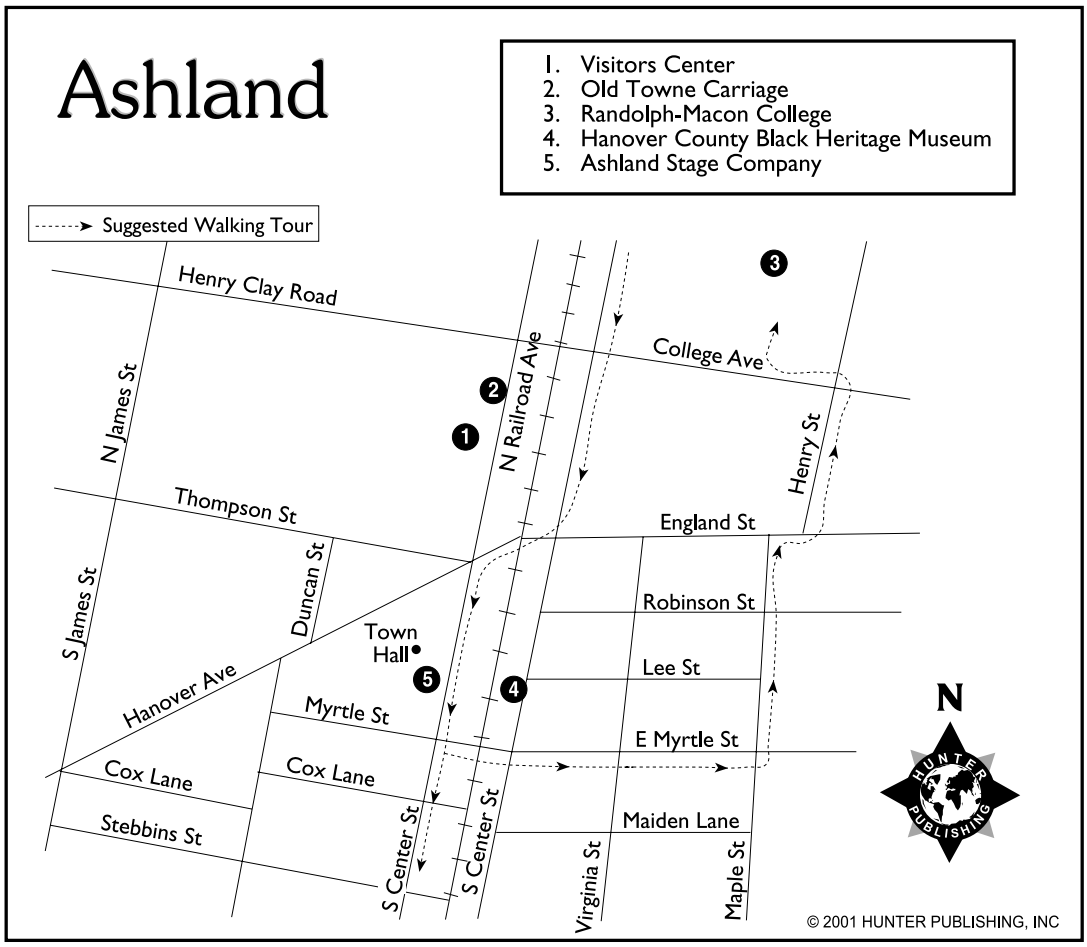
**Hanover County Black Heritage Museum**, 204 Virginia Street, ☎ 804-752-6110, explores the county's African-American heritage.

**Historic Hanover Courthouse Complex**, built in 1735, houses the courthouse itself, a tavern and the 19th-century jail to form a rare historical complex. It was at the old courthouse that Patrick Henry participated in the Parson's Cause case of 1763 and gave a first thrust toward the American Revolution. Then, in 1774, the citizens of Hanover assembled at the courthouse and adopted the Hanover Resolves. The courthouse is located on Route 301, southeast of Ashland, and is open by appointment. ☎ 804-537-5815.

**Historic Hanover Tavern**, built in 1732, was owned by John Shelton, father-in-law of Patrick Henry, from 1752 until 1764. From 1785 until 1835 it was a stop on the northern stagecoach line. It is located on Route 301, across from the courthouse, and is currently being restored. ☎ 804-537-5050.

**Paramount's Kings Dominion**, on Interstate 95 in Doswell, is a 400-acre family amusement park consisting of themed areas. Attractions include the Water Works Water Park, 10 world-class roller coasters, and a host of fun-filled rides, restaurants, fun houses, and live shows. Kings Dominion is open from late March through Labor Day and on weekends from October to Memorial Day. ☎ 804-876-5000 for brochures and information.

**Randolph-Macon College**, built in 1830, is one mile west of Interstate 95 at Ashland. The historic buildings of the Methodist-related college in-




clude the Washington-Franklin Hall, the Old Chapel and Pace Hall. For information about campus tours, ☎ 800-888-1762.

**Scotchtown**, **Home of Patrick Henry**, built in 1720 by Charles Chiswell, was the residence of Patrick Henry from 1771 until 1777. It was also, for a short period of time, the girlhood home of Dolly Madison. The house features fine examples of Colonial architecture and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Scotchtown is about 11 miles to the northwest of Ashland and is open Wednesday through Sunday, April through October, and by appointment. ☎ 800-897-1479 or 804-227-3500.

The Sycamore Tavern, built in 1732, was the fourth stagecoach stop on the road from Charlottesville to Richmond. The building served as a tavern well into the 19th century. Today it houses the historical and genealogical Page Memorial Library, named for the wife of the noted author Thomas Nelson Page. The house is open on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. ☎ 804-883-5355.

**The Richmond National Battlefield Parks** in Hanover County. The National Parks Service has four units in Hanover County. Beaver Dam Creek and Gaines' Mill were a part of the Battles of the Seven Days of 1862 when Robert E. Lee successfully defended Richmond during General George McClellan's Peninsula Campaign. The Battle of Cold Harbor took place in 1864 and was a part of General Grant's all-out campaign to

defeat and destroy the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia. Cold Harbor was a costly affair for General Grant, whose frontal attack on the well-entrenched Confederate forces of General Lee was repulsed with heavy casualties, leading him to break off the action and cross the James River to threaten the railroads around Richmond and Petersburg. To tour all four units, follow the signs from Mechanicsville along Route 156. All four parks are open daily. ☎ 804-226-1981.

❖ ***Old Towne Carriage**, ☎ 804-798-0975, offers horse-drawn carriage rides through Ashland's historic district.*

## *Recreation*

**Ashland Berry Farm**, Old Ridge Road, 10 miles northwest of Ashland, ☎ 804-227-3601, offers hayrides, pick-your-own berries and pumpkins, a petting zoo and Christmas shop.

**Family Golf Center**, 11000 Washington Highway, Ashland, ☎ 804-550-2622, has heated tee boxes, miniature golf and batting cages.

**The Hollows Golf Course**, 14408 Cherry Hill Road, Montpelier, ☎ 804-798-2949, is a 12-hole public course, 12 miles west of Ashland.

**Mechanicsville Family Sports Center**, 6297 Mechanicsville Turnpike, Ashland, ☎ 804-746-1888, has batting cages, miniature golf, video games, a covered driving range, and golf instruction.

**Overhill Lake**, off Route 33, Ashland, ☎ 804-798-6819, has a sandy beach and offers paddleboats on a five-acre lake.

**RF & P Model Railroad Club**, Ashland/Hanover Shopping Center, Ashland, ☎ 804-798-0250, has award-winning train exhibits on display.

**Town of Ashland Swimming Pool**, 1110 Maple Street at Carter Park, Ashland, ☎ 804-798-2520.

**Windy River Winery**, off Teman Road in Beaverdam, ☎ 804-449-6996, offers tours and tastings April through December.

## *Dining*

Small as it is, Ashland, along with the other small communities in Hanover County, offers a wide variety of dining opportunities. Dozens of unique restaurants and cafés offer a variety of culinary experiences. For a full list call the Hanover Visitor Information Center at ☎ 804-752-6766.

**Amberjack Landing**, 100 England Street, Ashland, ☎ 804-798-0400, offers seafood and serves lunch and dinner.

**Ashland Coffee & Tea**, 100 N. Railroad Avenue, Ashland, ☎ 804-798-1702 is a cozy coffee house that serves both lunch and dinner. There is entertainment on weekends.

**Henry Clay Inn**, 114 N. Railroad Avenue, Ashland, ☎ 804-798-3100, serves brunch and dinner with porch dining in the summer. Open Friday through Sunday only.

**Homemades by Suzanne**, 102 N. Railroad Avenue, Ashland, ☎ 804-798-8331, serves lunch only, offering sandwiches, soups, salads and desserts. Closed Sunday.

**Ironhorse Restaurant**, 100 S. Railroad Avenue, Ashland, ☎ 804-752-6410, is a gourmet restaurant offering a new menu every month. Serves lunch and dinner; closed Sunday and Monday.

**Medley Grove**, 506 Thompson Street, Ashland, ☎ 804-798-5632, is located in an old country store, serving homemade meals for lunch and dinner.

**Smokey Pig**, 212 S. Washington Highway, Ashland, ☎ 804-798-4590, is a specialty barbecue restaurant well known in the Ashland area. Closed Monday.

**Whistle Stop Ice Cream**, 106 N. Railroad Avenue, Ashland, serves delicious ice cream and sandwiches.

## *Accommodations*

Most establishments offer both handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms, but be sure to ask when making reservations.

### *Hotels*

**Best Western Hanover House Motor Lodge**, five miles south of Ashland on Interstate 95, ☎ 804-550-2805, is a medium-sized motor hotel with 90 rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. Facilities and services offered include a full-service restaurant and café, swimming pool, meeting rooms, valet service, golf privileges and an exercise room. Senior citizen discount. $-$$

**Best Western Kings Quarters**, off Interstate 95 at Paramount's Kings Dominion, ☎ 804-876-3321, is a large hotel with 248 rooms; handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms are available. There is a full-service restaurant and café, swimming pool, meeting rooms, valet service, lighted tennis courts and an exercise room. Discount for seniors. $$

**Comfort Inn Ashland**, 101 Cottage Green Drive, ☎ 804-752-7777, is a motor hotel with 125 rooms including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. Facilities and services offered include a free continental

breakfast, a swimming pool, meeting rooms, valet service and an exercise room. Pets are allowed in the rooms. Senior citizen discount. $$

**Econo Lodge**, on Interstate 95 and Virginia 54, ☎ 804-798-9221, has 87 rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. The hotel has a swimming pool and offers valet service. Discount for seniors. $$

**Hampton Inn**, 705 England Street, ☎ 804-752-8444, is a new hotel with 74 rooms, an exercise room, and outdoor pool. $$

**The Henry Clay Inn**, in the center of the town behind the train station, ☎ 804-798-3100, is a small country inn with 15 guest rooms, restaurant, gift shop and art gallery. Meeting space is available and the management offers corporate rates. $$-$$$

**Budget Inn**, 101 South Carter Road, ☎ 804-798-9291, is a small motel with 98 rooms. Non-smoking rooms are available. There is a restaurant and a swimming pool. Pets are allowed in the rooms and there is a senior citizen discount. $

**Holiday Inn-Ashland**, off Interstate 95, ☎ 804-798-4231, is a well-appointed hotel with 165 rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. There is a full-service restaurant and café, a swimming pool, meeting rooms, valet service and an exercise room. Senior discount. $-$$

**Ramada Inn**, at Interstate 95 and State Route 54 West, ☎ 804-798-4262, is a comfortable hotel with 89 rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. There is a full-service restaurant and café, meeting rooms and valet service. A senior citizen discount is offered. $$

### *Camping*

**Americamps Richmond-North**, Exit 89 off I-95, ☎ 804-798-5298.

**Paramount's King's Dominion Campground**, Exit 98 off I-95, ☎ 804-876-5355. It has more than 300 sites, with water, sewer and electric hookups available, three cabins, a store with arcade games and groceries, a volleyball court, pool, miniature golf, and a free shuttle to and from Paramount's King's Dominion theme park.

## *Transportation*

Hanover County is linked to the rest of Virginia by a network of highways that includes **Interstates 95** and **295**, **US Highway 1** and **State Route 54**.

Ashland and Hanover County are served by the **Richmond International Airport** with direct flights to more than 55 cities and connecting flights to all national and international destinations.

## *Information*

The **Ashland/Hanover Chamber of Commerce** and the **Hanover Visitor Information Center** are at 112 North Railroad Avenue, Ashland, VA 23005, ☎ 804-752-6766 or 800-897-1479.

# Bedford & Bedford County

Strategically located between the metropolitan areas of Lynchburg and Roanoke, the Bedford area abounds with natural beauty and outdoor recreational opportunities.

Bedford County was established in 1754 and named for the fourth Duke of Bedford. In 1836, the Town of Liberty, now the city of Bedford, was established and thrived on an agrarian economy until Bedford's industrial development began in 1880. Since that time, industrial growth in the area has been consistent and often fostered by the involvement of local citizens. In the early 1980s the city undertook renovation of its historic downtown district and became one of Virginia's first Main Street Cities.

Bedford is located in the heart of the county on US Highway 460 and is bounded by the Blue Ridge Mountains to the west, the James River on the northeast, and Smith Mountain Lake to the south.

Winter is a time to spend cozy evenings by the fire at one of the county's many period bed and breakfast inns laden with heirlooms and friendly hospitality. When the snow arrives, there are ample trails and shelters in the high country that invite the hardy souls who enjoy winter hiking and camping.

The holiday bring a host of activities that have led to Bedford's unofficial title as "Christmas Capital of Virginia." The Elks National Home features a Christmas light display, which is a 50-year-old tradition.

The spring brings a breathtaking rebirth of nature among the overlooks of "America's most scenic drive." The **Blue Ridge Parkway** springs into vibrant color as the dogwoods, mountain laurel and rhododendron burst forth into the new season. Trails, self-guided wildflower walks, romantic picnic clearings, campgrounds, charming restaurants and lodging facilities all come together to provide one of the most entrancing vacation spots in all of Virginia.

In the summer, the focus of Bedford County shifts to the iridescent waters of **Smith Mountain Lake**. This beautiful 23,000-acre water park, with its more than 500 miles of shoreline, rimmed by mountains, is where the action is. Smith Mountain Lake is a haven for watersports enthusiasts from around the state. Boating, fishing, sailing, water-skiing, swimming and sunbathing are only a few of the exciting pastimes available on the

water. Add a little golf, perhaps some tennis, and some of the finest lakeside dining in Virginia, and you have the makings of a day out with a difference.

The fall brings a new experience to Bedford County. All along the Blue Ridge Parkway there are cascades of brilliant colors in the trees and across the hills and valleys. Thousands of visitors flock the area in search of the fall colors on the mountains. And, on the crystal water of Smith Mountain Lake, anglers seek the record-sized stripers and largemouth bass. Then hunting season arrives and more than 18,000 acres of the Jefferson National Forest and dozens of private tracts open for deer, wild turkey and bear hunting.

## *Sights*

**Avenel**, a manor house built in 1838 by William Burwell, was once the focal point of social, cultural and political life in Bedford. Each December, the legends of Christmas past are brought back to life in a series of traditional luncheons, dinners and entertainment by period actors and musicians. Tours by appointment. ☎ 540-586-8180.

**Bedford City/County Museum** is housed in an 1895 Masonic building. Exhibits tell the history of the area going back to early Native Americans, and include a display honoring those who participated in D-Day. The museum has been recently renovated and is handicapped-accessible. ☎ 540-586-4520.

**Bedford County Courthouse** is the third to occupy the site. This one was built in 1930 in the Classic Revival style. ☎ 540-586-7632.

**Bedford Farmer's Market** on Washington Street offers fresh produce and local crafts Monday through Saturday during spring, summer and fall. ☎ 540-586-2148.

**Bedford Historic Meeting House** was built in 1838 as a Methodist meeting house, when the town was known as Liberty. Open by appointment. ☎ 540-586-9639.

**Holy Land USA**, on Route 746, southwest of the city of Bedford, is a unique attraction on 400 acres that is a replica of the Bible lands of Syria, Israel and Jordan. There is primitive camping and picnic areas. ☎ 540-586-2823.

**James River Restored Canal Lock**, at Battery Creek Lock, was part of the James River and Kanawha Canal System built in 1948-49. ☎ 540-586-4357.

**Longwood Cemetery**, ☎ 540-586-7161, is the city's first cemetery, dating back to the Revolutionary War.

**National D-Day Memorial** is scheduled for completion in June, 2001. At the intersection of routes 122 and 450 in the city of Bedford, it will honor allied Armed Forces in the 1944 invasion of Normandy, and the town of Bedford which suffered the largest loss of life per capita of any community in the nation. ☎ 540-586-3329.

**Peaks of Otter Winery and Johnson's Orchards** offers fruit-of-the-farm wine tastings and tours. Open August through November or by appointment. 2122 Sheep Creek Road in Bedford County, ☎ 540-586-3707.

**Poplar Forest**, on Route 661 in Bedford County, is an octagonal house designed and built by Thomas Jefferson as his personal retreat. The house and an archaeological exhibit are open daily, April through November, ☎ 804-525-1806.

**Poplar Park**, on Grand Arbre Drive in the city of Bedford, is the home of the largest yellow poplar tree in the world, ☎ 540-586-7161.

**Sedalia**, on Route 638 near Big Island in Bedford County, is a non-profit center offering events in the arts, ethnic cultures, the environment, and health. ☎ 804-299-5080.

## *Recreation*

**The Appalachian Trail** passes through the county on its way from Georgia to Maine. It can be accessed from Milepost 91 on the Blue Ridge Parkway. ☎ 540-586-4357.

**Blue Ridge Parkway.** A portion of this 470-mile scenic drive passes through the northwest portion of the county. ☎ 540-586-4357.

**Liberty Lake Park** is a 60-acre area that offers a stocked fishing lake, playing fields, playgrounds and a handicapped hiking trail. There is a holiday light display each December. ☎ 540-586-7161.

**The Peaks of Otter** can be seen from Milepost 86 on the Blue Ridge Parkway. These twin mountain peaks reach 4,200 feet. There are walking trails, a Southern mountain farm and an inn nearby. ☎ 540-586-4357.

**Smith Mountain Lake State Park** offers boating, hiking, camping and swimming with 16 miles of shoreline. Rental cabins are available. ☎ 540-297-6066.

**Washington/Jefferson National Forests.** These vast national forest lands offer a wealth of recreational opportunities. ☎ 540-291-2189.

## *Dining*

**Country Cookin**, West Main Street at the Wastage Shopping Center, Bedford, ☎ 540-586-4928.

**Forks Country Restaurant**, 1619 Forest Road, Bedford, ☎ 540-586-5071.

**New London House**, Smith Mountain Lake, New London, ☎ 804-525-3826, is open for dinner Wednesday through Sunday, serving steak, seafood, BBQ ribs, and chicken.

**Olde Liberty Station**, 515 Bedford Avenue, Bedford, ☎ 540-587-9377, offers a seafood and prime rib buffet on Friday and Saturday, a country buffet on Sundays, and lunch and dinner the rest of the week. Closed Mondays.

**Peaks of Otter Restaurant**, Milepost 86 on the Blue Ridge Parkway, ☎ 540-586-1081. Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner, serving a variety of seafood, steaks and sandwiches.

**R U Up**, 140 West Main Street, ☎ 540-587-0145, offers homemade pastries, sandwiches and a variety of coffees.

**Terrace House Restaurant**, Route 460 East at the Best Western, ☎ 540-586-9442.

## *Accommodations*

Most establishments offer both handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms, but be sure to ask when making reservations.

### *Hotels & Motels*

**The Best Western Terrace House**, 921 Blue Ridge Avenue, ☎ 540-586-8286 or 800-528-1234, is a pleasant motel with 78 rooms where pets are welcome and non-smokers can be accommodated. The hotel has a restaurant, a café, a bar and a pool. Discounts for senior citizens. $$

**Belview Bay Condominiums**, Smith Mountain Lake, Huddleston, ☎ 540-297-7532, has 22 units and two suites. There is a restaurant, pool and coffee shop. $$

**Budget Inn**, US 460 West, Lynchburg-Salem Turnpike, ☎ 540-586-8182, has 26 rooms; microwaves and refrigerators area available. $

**Super 8 Hotel**, 842 Olde Turnpike Drive, Bedford, ☎ 540-587-0100, has 32 units and eight suites with Jacuzzi. Free breakfast. $$

### *Bed & Breakfasts / Inns*

**The Bedford House**, in Bedford's historic district, ☎ 540-586-5050, is a 100-year-old home with two double units and antique furnishings. Full breakfast served.

**Otter's Den**, Route 43, two miles south of Blue Ridge Parkway, ☎ 540-586-2204, is a late-1700s renovated log cabin with two guest rooms and private baths. Outdoor hot tub.

**The Peaks of Otter Lodge**, on the Blue Ridge Parkway close to Bedford, ☎ 540-586-1081, may be one of the most perfect vacation inns in Virginia. Everything at Peaks of Otter is in harmony with nature. From the lakeside setting to the decor of natural woods and subtly blended textures, tones and colors, the hotel seems at one with its surroundings. You can enjoy the fresh air, nature trails, fishing and pioneer history. At the end of the day there's always a good meal and wonderful hospitality in the restaurant where a heaping plate and good service make you feel right at home. There are 50 double rooms and three suites. Some special packages include meals. $$

**Reba Farm Inn**, 3094 Sheep Creek Road, Bedford, ☎ 888-235-3574, has six guest rooms, including one suite, all with private baths, in a 200-year-old farmhouse. Children are welcome and a full three-course breakfast is included. $$-$$$

**Stone Manor B&B**, 1135 Stone Manor Place, Goodview, ☎ 540-297-1414, has three rooms, all with private baths. Full breakfast served in a contemporary stone house overlooking Smith Mountain Lake. $$

**Summer Kitchen** at West Manor, 3594 Elkton Farm Road, Forest, ☎ 804-525-0923, has one guest suite with private bath in an 1840 English country cottage. Full breakfast. $$$

## *Transportation*

The **Roanoke Regional Airport** is served by most major and regional carriers with direct or connecting flights to all major domestic and international destinations.

## *Information*

**Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center**, 305 East Main Street, Bedford, VA 24523, ☎ 800-933-9535 or 540-586-9401. It is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m., year-round, and on Saturday from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m., April through November.

# Charlottesville & Albemarle County

## *History*

Perhaps Thomas Jefferson's own words best describe the panoramic vistas and rolling hills of Albemarle County. He wrote, "These mountains are the Eden of the United States."

The Eden where Mr. Jefferson was born, where he made his home and that inspired him to write those words, has changed somewhat with the times, but the historic streets of Charlottesville, the spectacular beauty of the Blue Ridge and the country lanes of Albemarle County remain.

Charlottesville, set almost in the center of the state, is the trading center for a widespread area. In Colonial times tobacco was the premiere product. Today, the county's output is far more diverse. Wheat, peaches, frozen foods, electronic products, beef and dairy cattle, race horses, light industry and apple-growing continue to stimulate an already lively economy. The University of Virginia (and its related enterprises), however, remains Charlottesville's biggest employer.

Albemarle County's history began with its founding in 1744, when it was named in honor of **William Ann Keppel**. Keppel, the second earl of Albemarle and governor general of the colony of Virginia, never set foot in the county.

The county seat was moved from Scottsville to Charlottesville in 1762. Charlottesville took its name from Queen Charlotte, the wife of King George III.

In 1769 at the age of 26, Thomas Jefferson began the design and construction of his beloved mountain-top estate, **Monticello**. The house was built and subsequently remodeled over a period of some 40 years, reflecting Jefferson's fondness for architecture and the amusement he found, as he put it, in "... putting up and pulling down." Jefferson returned to his "little mountain" home when he retired from the presidency in 1809. He founded the University of Virginia at Charlottesville in 1817.

Our nation's fifth president, James Monroe, also lived in Albemarle County. On a mountain top, only a couple of miles or so from Monticello, lies **Ash Lawn Highland**, Monroe's 550-acre estate. Monroe was a good friend of Thomas Jefferson. In fact it was Jefferson who personally selected the site where Monroe built his house. James and his wife, Elizabeth, moved into Highland on November 23, 1799.

Today, history comes to life in Charlottesville and Albemarle County. Jefferson's Monticello, Monroe's Ash Lawn Highland, the old country homes, inns, mills and Charlottesville's historic downtown district, offer

visitors a unique view of one of Virginia's most beautiful and historically significant locations.

- *Charlottesville has been ranked as one of the best places to live in the country, and it boasts numerous writers among its former and present citizens.*

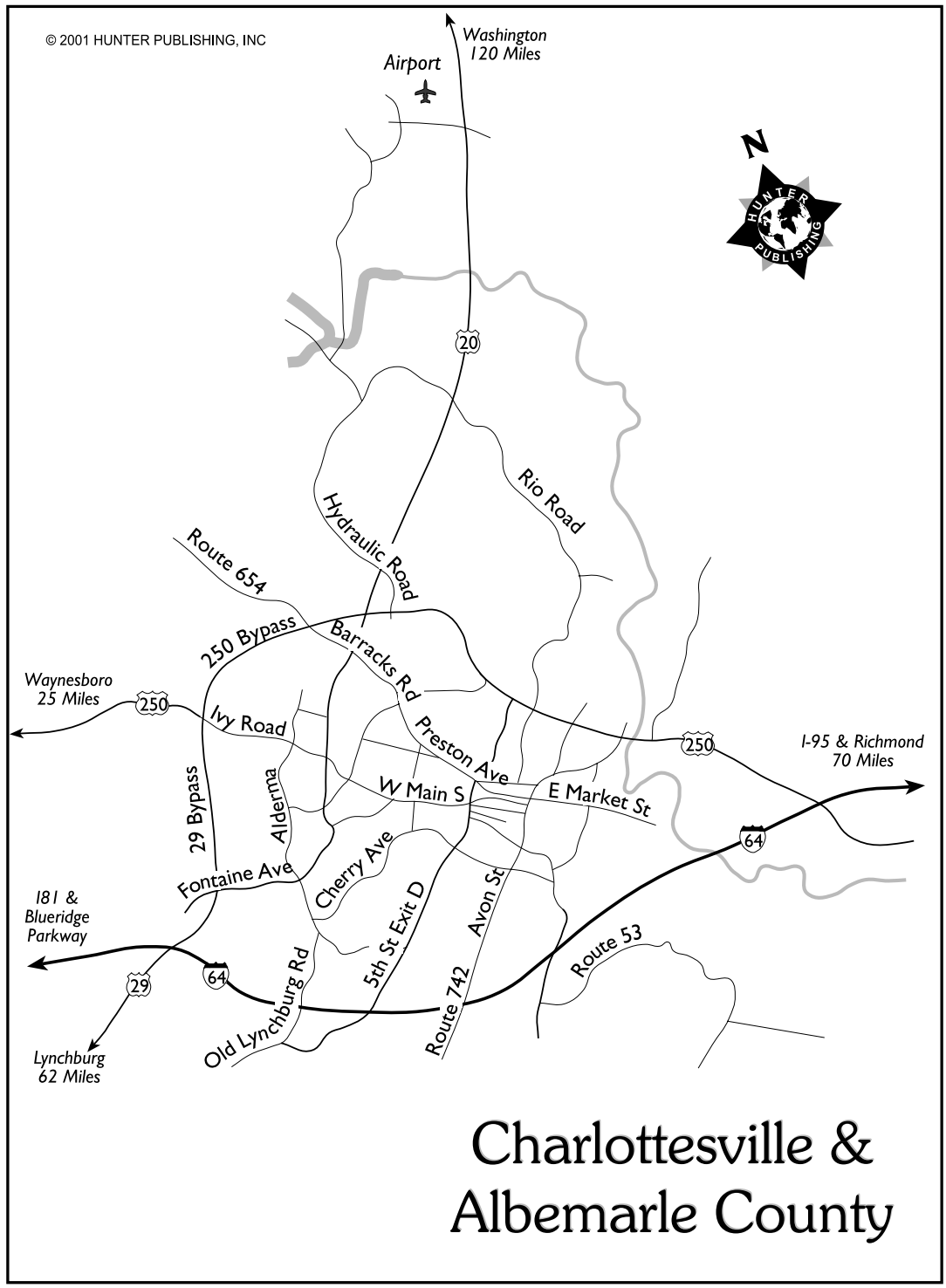
## Sights

**The University of Virginia** in Charlottesville, founded in 1819 by Thomas Jefferson, was built according to his designs. The university's red brick buildings form the center of Jefferson's "academical village." Smooth green lawns, ancient oak trees, Jefferson's famous serpentine walls and the room where Edgar Allen Poe lived as a student are only a few of the features on display for visitors to enjoy. The university is open for walking tours year-round except for three weeks during mid-December and early January. ☎ 804-924-7969.

**Monticello** is two miles west of Charlottesville on VA 53. Set on a mountain top overlooking the city, it is one of the most beautiful estates in Virginia. Considered a classic of early American architecture, the house was designed by Thomas Jefferson and built over a period of more than 40 years. It symbolizes the pleasure Jefferson found in putting things up and pulling them down. Most of the furnishings are original. Visitors to Monticello can tour the restored orchard, vineyard, vegetable garden and take a self-guided tour of Mulberry Row, the site of the old plantation workshops. Monticello is open daily except Christmas Day. ☎ 804-984-9822.

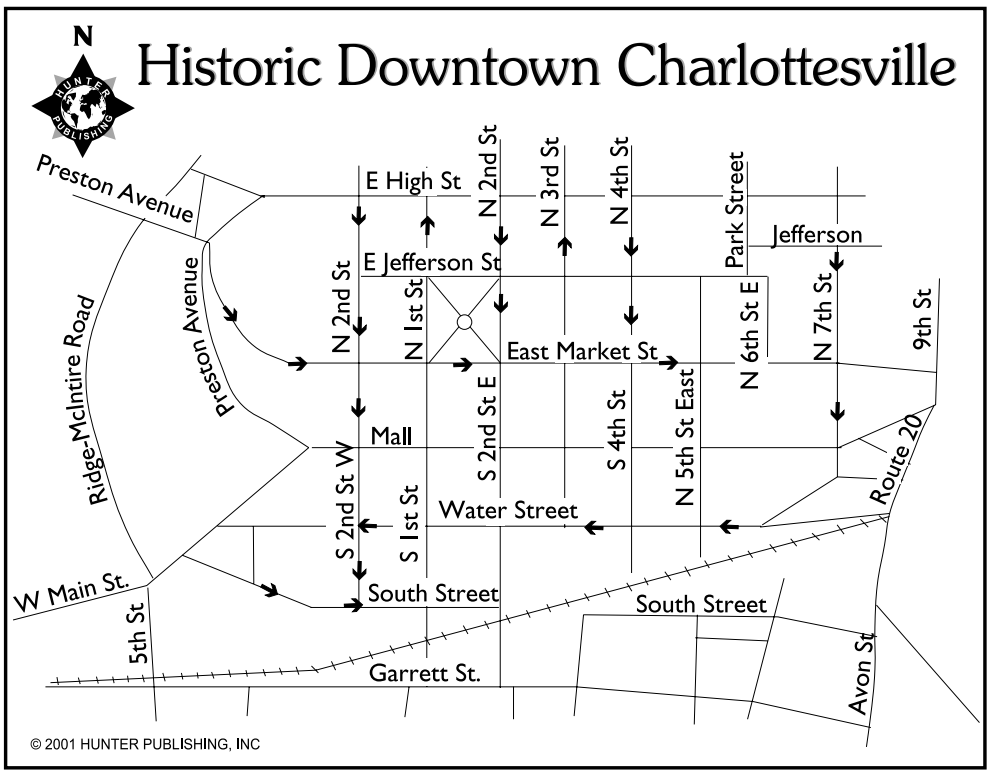
**Ash Lawn-Highland: Home of James Monroe** is on County Highway 795 and built upon a site personally selected by Thomas Jefferson. The 535-acre estate was the home of President James Monroe. It is owned today by Monroe's old college, William & Mary. The early 19th-century working estate offers visitors a look at what life must have been like on the plantation. Guided tours of the house and gardens show many of Monroe's possessions, spinning and weaving demonstrations, and the magnificent boxwood gardens complete with peacocks. Special events at the estate include a summer festival of operas, children's shows, spring and Christmas programs and a Colonial crafts weekend. The estate is open daily except for Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. ☎ 804-293-9539 or visit www.avenue.org/ashlawn for information.

**Michie Tavern**, three miles south of Charlottesville on VA 53, is built upon land granted to Patrick Henry's father and later bought by John Michie. It was built in 1784, has been lovingly restored and contains many fine antiques. The old outbuildings, also extensively restored, include a kitchen, smokehouse, springhouse and a wine museum. The




Michie Tavern is open daily except Christmas and New Year's Day. Lunch is served, and there's a gift shop. ☎ 804-977-1234.

**Albemarle County Court House**, on Court Square in Charlottesville, was once used as a "common temple." It was shared by Episcopalians, Methodists, Presbyterians and Baptists – one Sunday per month for each religion. All religions were welcome to attend each Sunday regardless of denomination.




**Albemarle County Historical Society**, 200 Second Street NE, ☎ 804-296-1492, has exhibits, a photograph collection and research library. Open Monday through Saturday.

**The Bayly Art Museum**, ☎ 804-924-5392, is located on Rugby Road on the University of Virginia grounds. Open afternoons, Tuesday-Sunday.

**Virginia Discovery Museum**, Historic Downtown Mall in Charlottesville, ☎ 804-977-1025, is a hands-on museum for children. Open Tuesday through Saturday. Visit www.vadm.org.

**A Sightseeing Tour of Historic Charlottesville and Albemarle County** takes in most of the places of interest in and around the city. A map and detailed information are available at the Convention and Visitors Bureau on Virginia Highway 20S. ☎ 804-977-1783.

## *Wineries*

**Jefferson Vineyards**, 1399 Thomas Jefferson Parkway, Charlottesville, ☎ 804-977-3042, or www.jeffersonvineyards.com.

**Oakencroft Vineyards & Winery**, 1486 Oakencroft Lane (3½ miles west of Route 29 on Barracks Road), Charlottesville, ☎ 804-296-4188, www.oakencroft.com. Open for tours and tastings April through December. **Totier Creek Vineyard & Winery**, 1652 Harris Creek Road, Charlottesville, ☎ 804-979-7105.

**White Hall Vineyards**, Sugar Ridge Road, Crozet, ☎ 804-823-8615.

## *Shopping*

Visiting shoppers will find a wide range of offerings. Charlottesville's **Downtown Mall**, closed to through traffic, has many distinctive specialty boutiques, while nearby shopping malls in the Charlottesville/Albemarle area combine specialty shops with stylish and convenient department stores. **The "Corner,"** adjacent to the university, offers stylish boutiques and fun shops.

## *Entertainment*

Evening and weekend entertainment can range from the University of Virginia's Culbreth Theatre to a concert band performance on the Downtown Mall to 18th-century opera performed in the boxwood gardens of Ash Lawn-Highland. For information on weekly cultural events in and around Charlottesville, Call the **Arts Line**, ☎ 804-980-3366.

**Ashlawn-Highland Summer Festival** takes place in the boxwood gardens of Ash Lawn-Highland, Route 795, featuring opera and musical theater. ☎ 804-293-4500.

**Charlottesville Performing Arts Center**, Charlottesville, ☎ 804-979-9532, offers performances including musicals, opera, dance theater, and children's theater.

**The Charlottesville and University Symphony Orchestra**, ☎ 804-924-3984.

**Charlottesville Downtown Foundation**, Downtown Amphitheater, ☎ 804-296-8548, hosts Fridays After Five, a free concert series showcasing local musical talent late April to Oct. 1.

**Live Arts**, 609 East Market Street, in the Old Michie Building, ☎ 804-977-4177, offers mainstream and experimental productions.

**Piedmont Council of the Arts**, ☎ 804-980-3366, is the local arts agency serving Charlottesville, Albemarle and surrounding counties.

**Prism Coffee House**, Charlottesville, ☎ 804-977-7476, features live performances by local and national artists. Visit www.theprism.org.

**The Studio for the Performing Arts**, 405 Third Street, N.E., ☎ 804-295-5678.

**University of Virginia** has the Culbreth Theatre (☎ 804-924-3376), and the Helms Theatre (☎ 804-924-3376).

## *Annual Events*

**Virginia Festival of the Book** is a five-day series of readings, discussions and book signings held at various locations in March. ☎ 804-924-3296.

**The Annual Dogwood Festival**, held over 10 days in mid-April, features a parade, queen's coronation and dance, lacrosse and golf tournaments, carnival and fireworks, ☎ 804-961-9824.

**Crozet Arts and Crafts Festivals** are held in May and October.

**Founder's Day**, April 13th, celebrates Jefferson's birthday and features a wreath-laying ceremony at his grave. ☎ 804-984-9822.

**Historic Gardens Week**, held in mid-April, is a time when many of Albemarle County's fine private homes and gardens are open to the public. ☎ 804-984-9822.

**Virginia Film Festival**, the last week in October, features film screenings and discussions with leading film makers. It takes place at various locations throughout Charlottesville and on the University of Virginia campus. ☎ 800-UVA-FEST, www.vafilm.com.

**Governor Jefferson's Thanksgiving Festival** in mid-November at Charlottesville's Historic Court Square and Downtown Mall, ☎ 804-978-4466.

**The Charlottesville Tradition** is held the first weekend in December, offers arts, shopping, food and entertainment, starting on Friday with the grand illumination of the Downtown Mall. ☎ 804-977-1783.

## *Dining*

Charlottesville and Albemarle County offer an extraordinary array of interesting dining possibilities, from simple, quick and economical to elegant or exotic. There are casual bistros, lively microbreweries and sophisticated eateries. Just a sampling of the more popular dining places are described below. For a complete listing, ☎ 804-977-1783 or visit www.cvilledining.com.

**The Aberdeen Barn**, 2018 Holiday Drive, ☎ 804-296-4630, is open for diner nightly. Reservations are accepted and the menu includes prime rib, steak and seafood. The food and the service are top-notch.

**Biltmore Grill**, 16 Elliewood Avenue, ☎ 804-293-6700, is a very popular burger joint that serves pasta and salads too. Open daily for lunch and dinner.

**Star Hill Restaurant & Brewery**, 709 West Main Street, ☎ 804-977-0017, is open for lunch and dinner. The setting is a brewery in a historic,

turn-of-the century building. The menu includes smoked trout wontons, Caribbean marinated chicken, Pommery-herb pork loin and West Indian seafood sauté. The food is good and prices are reasonable.

**Buddhist Biker Bar & Grill**, 20 Elliewood Avenue, ☎ 804-971-9181, dinner, and the bar is open until 2 a.m. Don't let the name fool you – it's not just a bar and it's not just for bikers. It's casual, but the food, wine and service are top-notch. There is patio dining. After 10 p.m. or so, the nighttime college crowd comes in.

**C & O**, 515 E. Water Street, ☎ 804-971-7044, is open for lunch and dinner. The menu offers French and American cuisine. The food and service are excellent.

**Café Europa**, 1331 W. Main Street, ☎ 804-295-4040, offers tasty Greek fare. Open daily.

**Casella's Italian Restaurant**, located in the Barrack's Road Shopping Center, ☎ 804-979-7011, is open for lunch and dinner. The menu offers specialties that include pasta, lasagna, calzone and stromboli.

**The Continental Divide**, 811 W. Main Street, ☎ 804-984-0143, serves up generous portions of good Mexican food and reasonable prices. Open daily.

**The Court Square Tavern**, 500 Court Square, ☎ 804-296-6111, offers a warm, English pub atmosphere with excellent, friendly service. Open daily.

**Edgar's**, 817 West Main Street, ☎ 804-295-5373, is open for dinner and offers a variety of fresh seafood dishes, grilled meats and hand-made pastas along with a selection of fine wines and microbrewed beers. The atmosphere is casual but elegant.

**The Ivy Inn**, 2244 Old Ivy Road, ☎ 804-977-1222, is open for lunch and dinner. The menu includes seafood and steak. The food and service are good. Open daily for dinner and brunch on Sunday.

**Michael's Bistro & Taphouse**, 1427 University Court, ☎ 804-977-3697, is a fun atmosphere with good food, open daily.

**Rococo's**, 2001 Commonwealth Drive, ☎ 804-971-7371, offers delicious Italian food. Open daily.

**Take It Away Sandwich Shop** 115 Elliewood Avenue, ☎ 804-295-1899, has possibly the best sandwiches in town. Take-out only.

**Tiffany's Seafood Restaurant**, 2171 Ivy Road, ☎ 804-293-5000, serves seafood and an excellent Alfredo.

**Zazu's**, 2214 Ivy Road, ☎ 804-293-3454, serves tortillas, wraps, Thai dishes and curries. Open daily for lunch and dinner.

# Accommodations

More than 2,700 rooms are available in the Charlottesville area; from economy-style motel rooms to full-service inns and hotels.

Most establishments offer both handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms, but be sure to ask when making reservations.

## Motels & Hotels

**Best Western Cavalier Inn**, 105 Emmett Street, ☎ 804-296-8111, has 118 rooms. There is a full-service restaurant and café, a swimming pool, a meeting room, valet service and complimentary coffee in the lobby. Free continental breakfast; senior citizen discounts. $$

**Days Inn-University Area**, 1600 Emmett Street, ☎ 804-293-9111, 120 rooms. There is a full-service restaurant and café, a swimming pool, a meeting room, valet service and free coffee in the lobby. Pets are allowed in the rooms. Senior citizen discounts. $$

**Doubletree Hotel Charlottesville**, 2350 Seminole Trail, ☎ 804-973-2121, has 234 rooms. There is a full-service restaurant and café, a swimming pool with poolside service, tennis courts, an exercise room, meeting rooms, convention facilities, valet service and free coffee in the lobby. Senior citizen discount. $$-$$$

**The English Inn of Charlottesville**, at I-64, Exit 23 and 5th Street, ☎ 804-971-9900, has 90 units. There is a swimming pool, an exercise room, a meeting room, valet service and free coffee in the lobby. Pets are allowed in the rooms and there is a free continental breakfast. $$

**The Hampton Inn**, 2035 India Road, ☎ 804-978-7888, is a medium-sized motel with 123 rooms including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. There is a swimming pool, a meeting room, health club privileges, valet service and free coffee in the lobby. Free continental breakfast; airport, railroad and bus depot transportation; and senior citizen discount. $$

**Holiday Inn-University Area & Conference Center**, 1901 Emmett Street, ☎ 804-977-7700, has 174 rooms including non-smoking rooms. It has a swimming pool, a meeting room, valet service and free coffee in the lobby. Free continental breakfast; senior citizen discount. $$

**Holiday Inn Monticello**, at I-64, Exit 23 and 5th Street, ☎ 804-977-5100, has 130 rooms. There is a full-service restaurant and café, a swimming pool, a meeting room, golf privileges, valet service and free coffee in the lobby. $$

**The Knights Inn**, 1300 Seminole Trail, ☎ 804-973-8133, has 115 rooms. There is free coffee in the lobby, a swimming pool, a meeting room, and valet service. Pets are allowed in the rooms. Senior citizen discounts. $$

**Red Roof Inn of Charlottesville**, 1309 West Main Street, ☎ 804-295-4333, has 135 rooms. You will find a full-service restaurant and café, a swimming pool, a meeting room, valet service and free coffee in the lobby. There is a senior citizen discount.

**The Omni Charlottesville**, 235 West Main Street, ☎ 804-971-5500, has more than 200 rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. There is a full-service restaurant and café, a swimming pool with poolside service, an exercise room, meeting rooms, convention facilities, valet service and free coffee in the lobby. The management offers airport, railroad and bus depot transportation and a senior citizen discount. $$$

## *Bed & Breakfasts / Inns*

**200 South Street**, 200 South Street, ☎ 804-979-0200, is an elegant inn with 20 guest rooms. The house, built in 1853, is filled with period furniture and antiques. A free continental breakfast is included in the rate. $$$

**Clifton – The Country Inn**, 1296 Clifton Inn Drive, ☎ 804-971-1800 or 888-971-1800, has 14 rooms, all with private baths. This elegant, 18th-century manor house is set on 40 acres and has a gourmet restaurant, wine cellar, and fireplaces. There is a pool, tennis, spa and private lake. www.cliftoninn.com. $$$

**Inn At Monticello**, 1188 Scottsville Road, ☎ 804-979-3593, has five rooms, all with private baths, in an 1850 Southern manor two miles from Monticello. Bedrooms have antiques, canopy beds, down comforters and fireplaces. www.innatmonticello.com. $$$

**Inn At Sugar Hollow Farm** is 20 minutes from Charlottesville, near White Hall on Sugar Hollow Road, ☎ 804-823-7086. There are five rooms, all with private baths, in a quiet country setting. Fireplaces, whirlpools and gardens. www.sugarhollow.com. $$$

**Inn At The Crossroads**, on Route 692 just south of Charlottesville, ☎ 804-979-6452, has five guest rooms and a cottage, all with private baths. The inn has been operating since 1820. There are panoramic mountain views and a full breakfast is served. www.crossroadsinn.com. $$-$$$

**Prospect Hill Plantation Inn**, 2887 Poindexter Road, Trevilians, just east of Charlottesville, ☎ 540-967-2574 or 800-277-0844. There are 10 rooms and three suites, all with private baths, in a 1732 manor house on 50 acres. A full breakfast in bed and a five-course candlelight dinner are served. www.prospecthill.com. $$$

**Silver Thatch Inn**, 3001 Hollymead Drive, ☎ 804-978-4686, has seven rooms, all with private baths, and some have fireplaces and canopy beds.

The inn dates to 1780. There is a candlelit restaurant with an extensive wine list. www.silverthatch.com. $$$

**The 1817 Historic B&B**, 1211 W Main Street, ☎ 804-979-7353 or 800-730-7443, has five rooms, all with private baths. Built by James Dinsmore, Jefferson's master craftsman, the inn offers gourmet food, an antique shop and elegant accommodations. www.symweb.com/1817. $$-$$$

**The Foxfield Inn**, 2280 Garth Road, eight miles from Charlottesville, ☎ 804-923-8892, has five rooms, all with private bath. Restored, gracious home. www.foxfield-inn.com. $$$

**The Quarters**, 611 Preston Place, ☎ 804-979-7264, offers a three-room suite in an 1830 dependency building. Suite has private entrance, sitting room with fireplace and a full breakfast is served. $$$

## *Resorts*

**The Boar's Head Inn & Sports Club**, on Ivy Road, one mile west of its junction with US 29, ☎ 804-296-2181, is a full service resort with 163 guest rooms and 12 suites including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking units. There are two full-service restaurants, an outdoor swimming pool with poolside service and a lifeguard on hand, golf privileges, and exercise room, convention facilities and hot air ballooning. The management provides free airport, railroad and bus depot transportation, and senior citizen discounts.

**The Wintergreen Resort**, 43 miles from Charlottesville at Nellysford on US 250, ☎ 804-325-2200, is a full-service resort complex. See page **.

## *Camping*

**The Charlottesville KOA**, on Route 708 between Routes 20 and 29, is the closest camping ground to Monticello. It offers 94 wooded sites including 27 with full hookups, 47 with water and electric and 20 with no hookups. Facilities also include 11 pull-throughs, three camping cabins, hot showers and flush toilets, sewage disposal, a laundry and a limited grocery store where you can purchase LP gas and ice. There is a recreation room, a pavilion, a fishing lake a playground, planned group activities and weekend entertainment in season. The management accepts the KOA Value Card and major credit cards. For information contact the Charlottesville KOA, Route 1, Box 144, Charlottesville, VA 22903, ☎ 804-296-9881.

## Recreation

### Skating

**Charlottesville Ice Park**, 230 West Main Street, ☎ 804-979-1423, on the Historic Downtown Mall.

### Golf

The City of Charlottesville owns two courses, **McIntire Park Golf Course**, 250 Bypass, ☎ 804-799-0615; and **Meadow Creek Golf Course**, Pen Park Road, ☎ 804-977-0615. Albemarle County also has the **Keswick Hall Golf Club**, ☎ 804-923-4363, 701 Club Drive in Keswick, and the **Boar's Head Inn Golf Course**, 200 Ednam Drive, Charloittesville, ☎ 804-296-2181.

### Hiking

Within day-trip distance of Charlottesville are a myriad of opportunities, including the Shendandoah National Park, George Washington National Forest, and Old Rag Mountain.

## Transportation

**The Charlottesville/Albemarle Airport** has scheduled connections with several East Coast destinations.

**Interstate 64** runs east and west intersecting with **Interstate 95** in Richmond, **Interstate 85** in Petersburg and **Interstate 81** in Staunton.

## Information

**The Charlottesville/Albemarle County Convention and Visitors Bureau**, PO Box 161, Route 20 South, Charlottesville, VA 22902, ☎ 804-977-1783 or www.charlottesvilletourism.org.

# Danville & Pittsylvania County

Danville, an independent city inside Pittsylvania County, is a town whose past still decorates its neighborhoods. It's a textile and tobacco center where the leisurely pace of the Old South blends with the modern tempo of commerce and industry. Danville is one of the nation's largest bright-leaf tobacco auction markets. It's also the location of Dan River, Inc., one of the largest, single-unit textile mills in the world. Another little-known fact about Danville is that it became the last capital of the Confederacy when Jefferson Davis sought refuge at the Sutherlin House after

the fall of Richmond in 1865. Danville is also the birthplace of Nancy Langhorne, who became Lady Astor and was the first woman to be seated in the British House of Commons.

## *Sights*

**The Tobacco Auctions.** From mid-August through mid-November, the huge tobacco houses ring with the chants of the auctioneers. It's an amazingly colorful process that dates back more than 100 years to the late 19th century. The action revolves around Danville's five warehouses and draws visitors from all over the country. The unique and exciting process is a sight and sound never to be forgotten. You can go on a self-guided tour, or be guided. Information on both are available from the Danville Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center, 645 Main Street, ☎ 804-793-5424.

**Danville Museum of Fine Arts and History** is housed in the Sutherlin Mansion, The Last Capital of the Confederacy, at 975 Main Street. Confederate President Jefferson Davis, with his cabinet, fled Richmond only hours before it fell to Union forces under the command of Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant in April, 1865. He took refuge in the Sutherlin home and from there, for 10 days or so until Lee's surrender at Appomattox, directed the fortunes of the doomed Confederacy. Today, the old house is open to visitors and offers them a look at the parlor, library and bedroom where President Davis spent his final days in office. Other exhibits include a permanent collection of silver, textiles and costumes, and a rotating exhibition by national and regional artists. The Sutherlin House is open daily except Monday. ☎ 804-793-5644.

**Danville Science Center**, 677 Craghead Street, ☎ 804-791-5160, features hands-on exhibits for all ages. It is housed in Danville's renovated train station. Open daily.

**Estelle H. Womack Museum of Natural History** is on Neathery Lane on the Danville Community College Campus, ☎ 804-797-2222. Open Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday from 2 until 5 p.m., and by appointment.

**The Historic District** of Danville, bounded by Jefferson Avenue and Greet Street, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The area is highlighted by **"Millionaires Row"** on Main Street, whose Victorian mansions abound with gables, gingerbread scrollwork, columns, porticos, cupolas and minarets.

**The Wreck of the Old 97 Marker**, on Riverside Drive between North Main Street and the Locust Lane overpass in Danville, identifies the site of the famous train wreck of September 27, 1903, made famous by the popular folk song of the same name. Casey Jones was the engineer! A museum is currently in the works.

**Pittsylvania County Courthouse**, Chatham. This Greek Revival courthouse was built in 1853 and the clerk's office maintains records back to 1747 with detailed genealogical records. Open Monday through Friday. ☎ 804-432-7887.

The **1813 Clerk's Office** in Danville has been restored and now houses a small museum. ☎ 804-432-9515.

**Street Car Diners**, Main Street, Chatham. The only two known street car diners in Virginia; there are only 20 left in the United States.

**Tomahawk Mill Winery**, Chatham, ☎ 804-432-1063, is open for tours and tastings Tuesday through Saturday, March 15 through Dec. 15. There is a historic water-powered grist mill.

**Town of Chatham Walking Tour.** Brochures on the Victorian architecture of Chatham are available at the Chamber of Commerce Office, ☎ 804-432-1650.

**Historic Grist Mills.** About 100 grist mills were built on Pittsylvania County waterways during the last two centuries. Three remain today. ☎ 804-432-2172.

## *Shopping*

As might be expected in a city with a population of more than 50,000, the shopping opportunities in Danville are varied and extensive. The downtown has undergone a recent revitalization, with several antique shops, sidewalk cafés and specialty shops opening.

Three large malls – **The Piedmont Mall**, **The Riverside Shopping Center** and **The Ballou Park Center** – are other highlights of Danville's shopping world. Smaller, but no less interesting plazas house specialty stores and outlets, while the downtown area, the heart of Danville's business community, offers a wide variety of shops. **The Dan River Outlet** is on Main Street, ☎ 804-799-7205.

The **Danville Community Market**, 629 Craghead Street, offers farm fresh produce, baked goods, crafts and a welcome center, Friday and Saturday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., and Sunday from noon until 5 p.m., April through December. ☎ 804-797-8961.

## *Annual Events*

**Soul Food for the Heart**, held in February, celebrates Black History Month and features entertainment, poetry, storytelling and soul food. ☎ 804-797-8848.

**Spring Arts and Crafts Show** is held at the Squire Armory Recreation Center in the third week of April, ☎ 804-799-5214.

**Annual Wine Festival** features tastings from 12 wineries, entertainment and food. ☎ 804-793-9955.

**Historic Garden Week Tour** is in April, ☎ 804-793-1329.

**Riverfront Celebration** on the Dan River features historical walks, canoe rides, fishing and more. ☎ 804-799-5215.

**The Festival in the Park**, held the third weekend in May at Ballou Park, West Main Street, Danville, features arts, crafts, music and entertainment. ☎ 804-799-5200.

**The Annual 4th of July Celebration and Hot Air Balloon Rally**, held over the 4th of July weekend, features an old-fashioned 4th with games, contests, fireworks, entertainment and a hot air balloon rally with more than a dozen balloons. Call 804-799-5200 for information.

**River City Strut**, held in mid-October, features a Shrimp Fest, arts & crafts, contests, and entertainment. ☎ 804-799-5200.

## *Dining*

Danville offers a wide variety of dining opportunities in more than 85 restaurants and cafés serving everything from fast food to ethnic cuisine.

**Eldon Restaurant**, Route 1, in Chatham, ☎ 804-432-0934, is located at the Inn at Chatham, an historic antebellum mansion. The owners, Joel and Peggy Wesley, are both graduates of culinary schools. They do all of the cooking. Continental cuisine includes steaks, seafood, roasts and quail. Open for dinner Wednesday through Saturday and for Sunday brunch.

**Joe & Mimma's Italian Restaurant**, 3336 Riverside Drive, Danville, ☎ 757-799-5763, offers traditional Italian fare in a casual atmosphere. Closed Sunday and Monday.

**Libby Hill**, 2105 Riverside Drive, Danville, ☎ 804-791-4680, serves daily seafood specials.

**Sir Richard's Steakhouse**, US 58 East, Danville, ☎ 804-822-6444, offers everything from sandwiches to steaks and seafood. There is a buffet lunch, and a lounge with live entertainment on weekends. Open daily.

**Stratford Inn Dining Room**, 2500 Riverside Drive, Danville, ☎ 804-793-2500, has a been a local favorite for more than 40 years. Specialties include homemade soups, pastries and pies.

# Accommodations

Most establishments offer both handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms, but be sure to ask when making reservations.

## Hotels & Motels

**Holiday Inn Express Danville**, 2121 Riverside Drive, ☎ 804-793-4000, has 100 rooms including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. There is a swimming pool, meeting rooms, valet service a free continental breakfast and free coffee in the lobby. Senior citizen discount. $$

**Days Inn**, 1390 Piney Forest Road, Danville, ☎ 804-836-6745, has 46 rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. $$

**Economy Inn**, 3050 West Main Street, Danville, ☎ 804-792-3622, has 52 rooms. $-$$

**Hampton Inn Riverside**, 2130 Riverside Drive, Danville, ☎ 804-793-1111, has 59 rooms; some are whirlpool suites. There is a pool, fitness room, and a restaurant nearby. $$

**Howard Johnson**, 100 Tower Drive, Danville, ☎ 804-793-2000, has 120 rooms including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. There is a pool, a bar, meeting rooms and valet service. The management offers a senior citizen discount. $$

**The Innkeeper West**, 3020 Riverside Drive, Danville, ☎ 804-799-1202, is a motel with 116 rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. Senior citizen discount and free continental breakfast. $-$$

**The Innkeeper North**, 1030 Piney Forest Road, Danville, ☎ 804-836-1700, has 121 rooms including non-smoking rooms. Senior citizen discount and free continental breakfast. $$

**The Stratford Inn & Convention Center**, 2500 Riverside Drive, Danville, ☎ 804-793-2500, has 157 rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. There is a pool, a bar, meeting rooms, an exercise room and valet service. Pets are allowed in the rooms and the management offers a senior citizen discount. $$

## Bed & Breakfasts / Inns

**Eldon The Inn at Chatham**, Route 1, in Chatham, ☎ 804-432-0935, is in an 1830 mansion on 15 acres, surrounded by 300-year-old oaks and huge boxwoods. There is a fine restaurant on the premises, where the cooks, Joel and Peggy Wesley, are also the owners. There are two guest rooms and a two-bedroom suite, all with private baths. $$-$$$

## *Transportation*

The nearest commercial airport is **Piedmont International Airport** in Greensboro, NC. Danville is served by **Greyhound** and **Amtrak**.

## *Information*

For information, contact **the Visitor Center**, **Danville Area Chamber of Commerce**, 635 Main Street, Danville, VA 24541, ☎ 804-793-5422, or visit www.danvillechamber.com. The center offers Victorian walking tours and tobacco auction tours.

# Hopewell (Prince George County)

An independent city located in the heart of the Williamsburg-Richmond-Petersburg triangle, Hopewell stands as one of Virginia's truly undiscovered treasures.

Visit the small Virginia port city of Hopewell and the quiet village of City Point for a few hours, an afternoon or even for a few days, and you will find yourself very close to American history and Americans who figured prominently in our nation's past.

You'll appreciate being only minutes away from the Lower James River Plantations, the Petersburg National Battlefield and the bosom of American military history. The excitement and desperation of the closing days of the Civil War can be relived right here in Hopewell.

## *History*

City Point was the headquarters of the Army of the United States during the Civil War and, though few shots were ever fired at the city, it was here that the war was won. During the 10 months of the siege of Petersburg in 1864-65, City Point was one of the busiest seaports and supply depots in the world. President Lincoln visited City Point twice. It was during his second visit in March and April of 1865 that both Petersburg and the Confederate capital, Richmond, fell to General Grant's forces.

Founded in 1613, Hopewell was the second permanent English settlement in America. From the earliest times, it has been an important inland port, having a fine channel about 28 feet deep and 300 feet wide. It was the birthplace of Edmund Ruffin, who is credited with firing the first shot of the Civil War at Fort Sumter, and of the noted political leader John Randolph.

Hopewell's two plantations, Weston Manor and Appomattox Manor, offer excellent examples of plantation life, gardens and furnishings.

## *Sights*

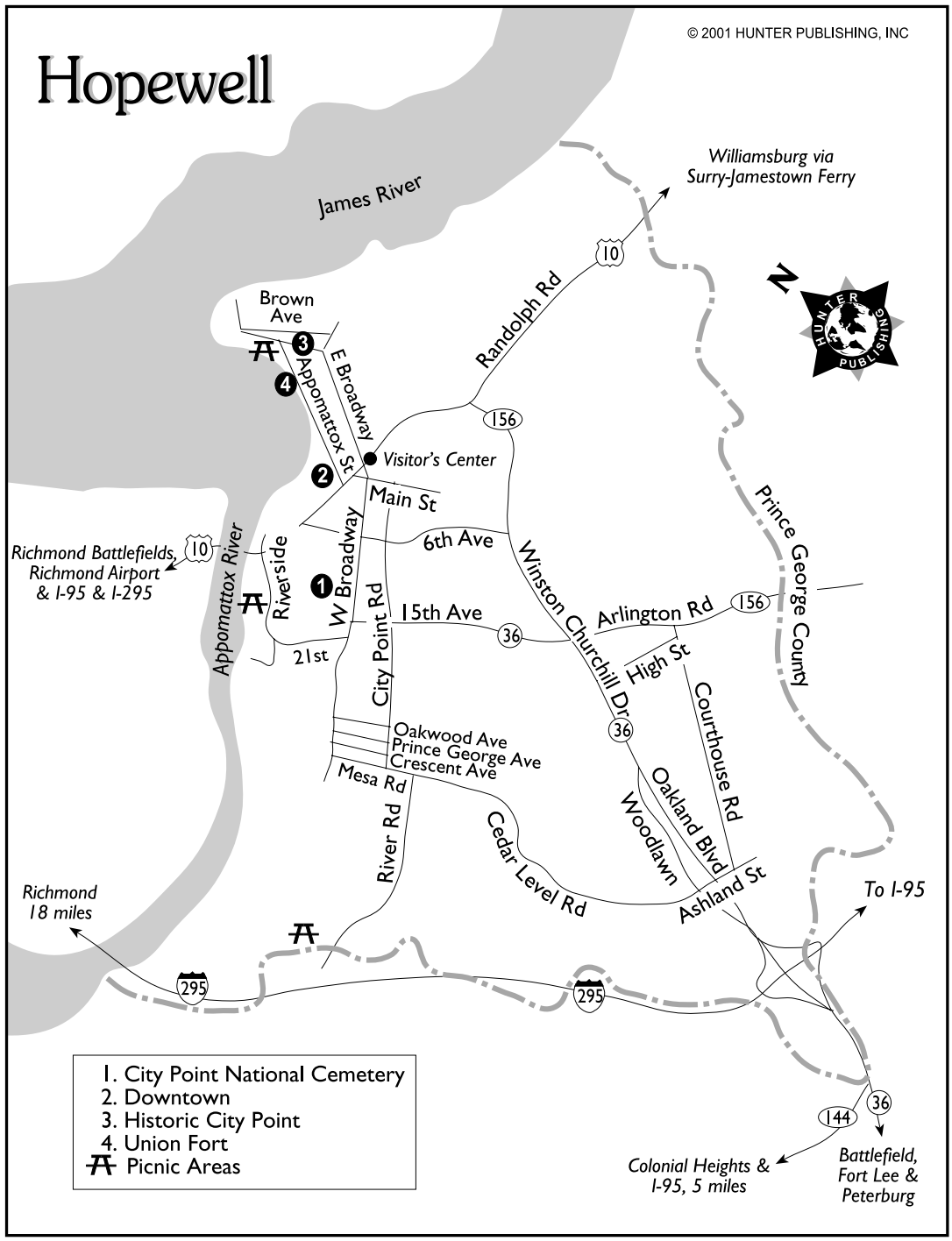
**Appomattox Manor** is located in City Point at the confluence of the James and Appomattox Rivers. The 23-room manor house and its outbuildings have survived the ravages of time as well as the devastation of war. It was from this old manor house that General Ulysses S. Grant directed the attack on General Lee's defenses around Petersburg during the 10-month siege that eventually resulted in Lee's surrender at Appomattox on April 12, 1865. The manor, now part of Petersburg National Battlefield, features General Grant's primitive T-shaped "Headquarters Cabin," and is open daily except Christmas and New Year's. ☎ 804-458-9504.

**Weston Manor** overlooks the Appomattox River. It was reputedly presented as a wedding gift to Christian Eppes and William Guilliam in 1789. Christian was the daughter of Richard Eppes, the heir to the Appomattox Plantation. Her mother was the daughter of William Robertson, whose family was descended from Pocahontas. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Weston is considered notable because of its well preserved original interior. The manor's distinctive moldings are 85% original. During the Civil War it was home to 12-year-old Emma Wood, who wrote a journal of her wartime experiences. Weston Manor and its gardens, at Weston Lane and 21st Avenue, are open Monday through Friday, and on Sunday afternoons, April through October. ☎ 804-541-2461 or 800-863-8687.

**The Merchant's Hope Church**, about 6½ miles east of Hopewell on VA 641, was named for a merchant ship plying the route between Virginia and England. The old church, built in 1657, has an exterior described as the most beautiful Colonial brickwork in America. It is the oldest operating Protestant church in the country. For a tour, ☎ 804-541-0470.

**The Flowerdew Hundred Museum**, located 10 miles east of Hopewell on Virginia Highway 10, is an outdoor museum at the site of an early English settlement on the south bank of the James River. Originally the home of local Indians, the Flowerdew Hundred was settled in 1618 by Governor George Yeardley. Today, the site offers a look at the earliest of Colonial times through a working replica of an 18th-century windmill and other buildings. There are also interpretive tours and thousands of artifacts dating from prehistoric times – the result of extensive archaeological excavations. The site is open daily except Monday, April through December 15. ☎ 804-541-8897.

**Sears**, **Roebuck and Company Houses by Mail.** Hopewell's Crescent Hills neighborhood has one of the nation's largest concentrations of these quaint homes and cottages built in the 1920s and 30s.




## *Annual Events*

**The Prince George County Heritage Fair**, held at the Flowerdew Hundred during the last weekend in April, features educational exhibits, antique farm equipment, demonstrations, arts & crafts, hayrides, music and a horse show. ☎ 804-541-2206.

**The Hooray for Hopewell Festival**, held in mid-September, celebrates the City of Hopewell through exhibitions of arts and crafts, good food, entertainment and a variety of children's activities. ☎ 804-541-2206.

**The February Mid-Winter Concert**, held in the high school auditorium in mid-February, is designed to break the winter blues. A Sweetheart theme is employed and the songs of yesteryear are remembered in barbershop harmony. Admission is free. ☎ 804-541-2206.

**The Community Christmas Tree Lighting**, held the first Thursday after Thanksgiving, is when all are invited to help light the Christmas tree. The celebration features caroling, hot apple cider, cookies and a brief concert by one of the local church choirs. ☎ 804-541-2206.

**The River Parade of Lights**, held the first Saturday night in December, is when the four area yacht clubs join together to light up the Appomattox River. The celebration features a parade of beautifully decorated boats and a fireworks display. ☎ 804-541-3308.

## *Dining*

**Belle's Victorian Café**, 224 N. Main Street, ☎ 804-541-8600, serves breakfast and lunch, Monday through Friday.

**Captain's Cove**, 701 W. Randolph Road, ☎ 804-452-1368, is open for lunch and dinner daily, specializing in fresh seafood, including steak and all-you-can-eat spiced shrimp.

**Chip's Place**, 208 E. Cawson Street, ☎ 804-541-6122, serves lunch Monday through Friday, dinner Monday through Saturday. Steaks, seafood and more.

**Dockside Restaurant**, 700 Jordan Point Road, ☎ 804-541-2600, offers a panoramic river view, fresh local seafood and steak. Open daily for lunch and dinner.

**The Hopewell Restaurant**, 230 S. 15th Street, ☎ 804-458-5959, serves Korean food for lunch and dinner. Closed Wednesday.

**Kanpai of Japan**, 5303 Oaklawn Boulevard, ☎ 804-541-8853, serves Japanese food daily.

**Pearl River Chinese Restaurant**, 264 East Broadway, ☎ 804-452-5824, has an all-you-can-eat buffet daily.

## *Accommodations*

Most establishments offer both handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms, but be sure to ask when making reservations.

### *Hotels & Motels*

**Comfort Inn**, 5380 Oaklawn Boulevard, ☎ 804-452-0022, has 126 rooms, eight of them with whirlpool. There is a pool, fitness center, restaurant, and pets are allowed. $$-$$$

**Holiday Inn Express**, 4911 Oaklawn Boulevard, ☎ 804-458-1500, has 115 rooms including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. There is a swimming pool, an exercise room, valet service and free coffee in the lobby. Free continental breakfast and a senior citizen discount. $$

**InnKeeper**, 3952 Courthouse Road, ☎ 804-458-2600, has 104 rooms including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. There is a swimming pool, valet service and free coffee in the lobby. Free continental breakfast and senior citizen discount. $$

**Hampton Inn Hopewell**, 5103 Plaza Drive, ☎ 804-452-1000 or 800-HAMPTON, is a medium-sized hotel with handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. They have a meeting room, valet service and free coffee in the lobby. There is a free continental breakfast, a senior citizen discount. $$

## *Transportation*

**Richmond International Airport** is about 20 miles from Hopewell. **Amtrak** serves nearby Petersburg, about four miles away.

## *Information*

**City of Hopewell Visitor Center**, Colonial Corner Shopping Center, 4100 Oaklawn Boulevard, Hopewell, VA 23860, ☎ 800-863-8687 or 804-541-2461 or visit www.ci.hopewell.va.us. Open daily 9 a.m. until 5 p.m., except Thanksgiving, Dec. 25-26 and Jan. 1. Information on the City Point Open Air Museum Walking Tour and the Virginia Civil War Trails at City Point driving tour are available, as well as Virginia's Pass to the Past, a discount ticket which includes 10 area attractions.

# Lynchburg (Amherst County)

Nestled in the James River valley near the geographic center of Virginia and bordered by the eastern ridge of the Blue Ridge Mountains, Lynchburg is built upon seven hills that give the city a unique view over the surrounding countryside.

To the west is Bedford County, Thomas Jefferson's country retreat. To the south is Campbell County, one of central Virginia's most urbanized counties. To the north lie Amherst and Nelson Counties and the famous Virginia ski resort of Wintergreen. And, only 20 miles to the east, is the reconstructed village of Appomattox Court House where, in April, 1865, the Confederacy died and the nation reunited.

Lynchburg is a city of trees, historic landmarks and recreation. It's a city proud of its culture and deeply committed to the arts. It's a city where quality of life is important, where life is a little slower, the scenery spectacular and outdoor recreation a way of life.

## *History*

Lynchburg was named for **John Lynch**, who began a ferry service across the James River in 1757. By the 1780s, a thriving community had grown up around Lynch's ferry. In 1786 the General Assembly granted Lynchburg its charter. The town was incorporated in 1805 and Lynchburg became a city in 1852.

Since its beginnings with John Lynch's ferry, commerce has been crucial to the development of Lynchburg. For more than a hundred years tobacco was the product most important to the area. It was produced here, auctioned and made into cigarettes and plugs for chewing. Tobacco made the people of Lynchburg prosperous. So much so that, by the mid-1800s, the city was second only to New Bedford, Massachusetts in per capita income.

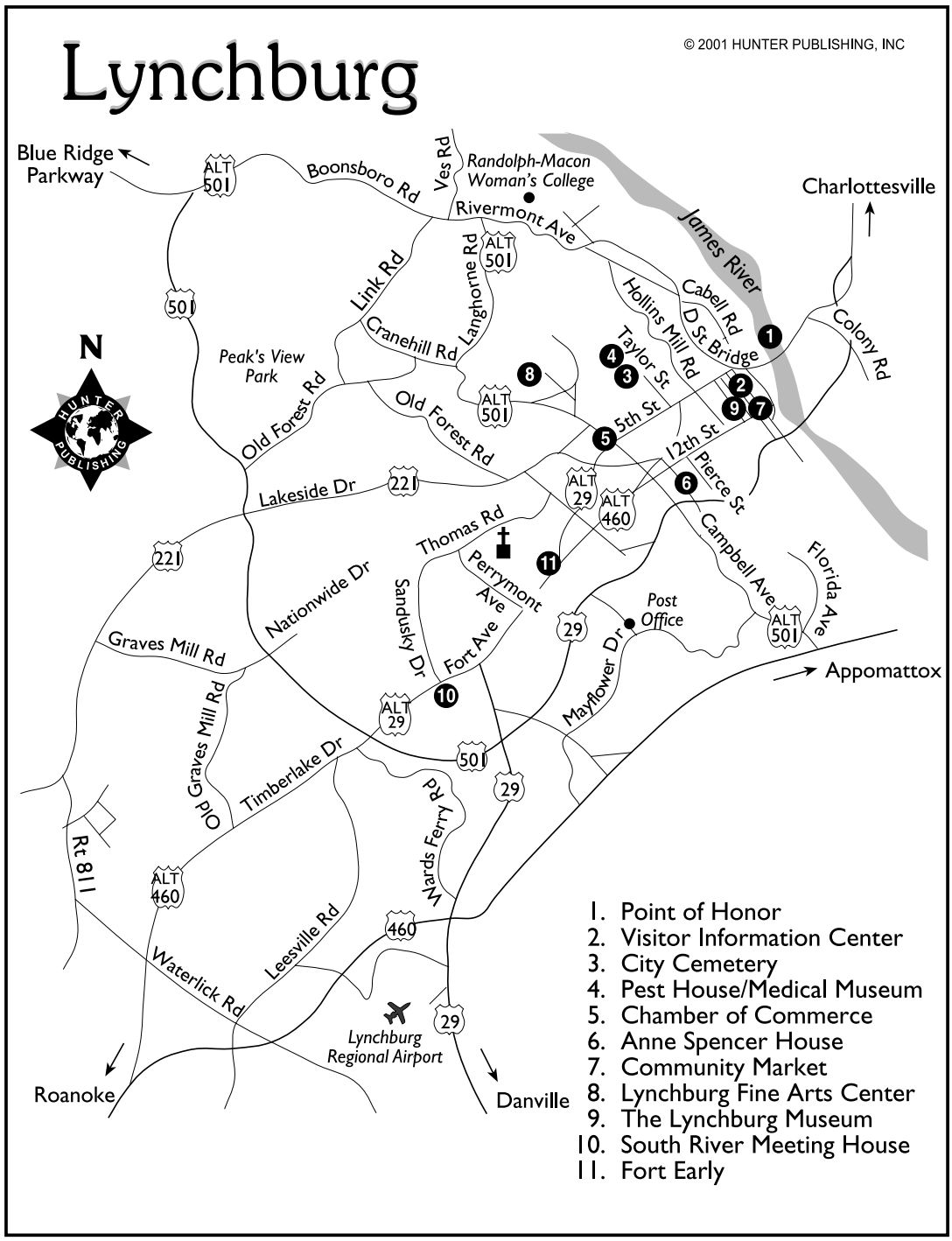
During the Civil War Lynchburg became a major storage depot, as well as a burial place for some 2,000 Civil War dead, including six Confederate Generals of whom Jubal Early is perhaps the most well known.

During the **Battle of Lynchburg**, fought over June 17th and 18, 1864, General Early is credited with having saved Lynchburg from destruction by Union forces. He led Union General David Hunter to believe massive Confederate reinforcements were arriving by rail. Early had his men run an empty train back and forth with great commotion. Early's breastworks can still be seen at Fort Early.

## *Sights*

**The Randolph-Macon Woman's College**, 2500 Rivermont Avenue, is the first Southern college for women granted a Phi Beta Kappa chapter. The 100-acre campus is an interesting mixture of architecture that includes the Houston Chapel designed by Vincent Kling. The Maier Museum of Art, also located on campus, houses a fine collection of 19th- and 20th-century American paintings. Artists represented include Thomas Hart Benton, Edward Hicks, Winslow Homer, James McNeil Whistler, Mary Cassatt and Georgia O'Keefe, ☎ 804-947-8136.

**Point of Honor**, 112 Cabell Street, is a restored, Federal-style mansion on Daniel's Hill above the James River. It was built in 1815 by Dr. George Cabell, Patrick Henry's personal physician. The house features an unusual octagon-bay façade, finely crafted woodwork, antique furnishings




and formal gardens. Point of Honor is open daily except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. ☎ 804-847-1459.

**Lynchburg Museum**, 901 Court Street, in the Old Court House, is an excellent example of Greek Revival architecture. Built in 1855 and restored to its original appearance, the old building houses three galleries which interpret the early history of the Lynchburg area, including a restored courtroom from the mid-19th century. The Old Court House is open daily except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. ☎ 804-847-1459.

**The Anne Spencer House**, 1313 Pierce Street, was the home of Anne Spencer, a noted poet whose works are included in the *Norton Anthology of Modern American and British Poetry*. "EdanKraal," Spencer's writing cottage, is on the grounds and there's a small museum with Spencer memorabilia, artifacts and antiques. The house is open daily by appointment only. ☎ 804-845-1313.

**Old City Cemetery**, at Fourth and Taylor Streets, is the resting place of more than 2,200 Confederate soldiers from 14 states, including six Confederate generals. The 500-foot-long "Old Brick Wall" bordering the southeast side of the cemetery features a magnificent rose garden with more than 60 varieties of roses. ☎ 804-847-1465.

**The Pest House Medical Museum**, in the Old City Cemetery at Fourth and Taylor Streets, is the 1840s white frame medical office of Quaker physician Dr. John Terrell. The museum features a number of interesting exhibits that include original medical instruments, an operating table and period furnishings. On one side is a duplicate of Dr. Terrell's office. The other side is a representation of the quarantine hospital for Confederate soldiers suspected of having small pox. The museum is open daily. ☎ 804-847-1465.

**South River Meeting House**, 5810 Fort Avenue, ☎ 804-239-2548, is a restore Quaker meeting house. Costumed guides give tours.

**Stonewall Vineyards and Winery**, Route 608 and 721, Concord, ☎ 804-993-2185, offers tours and tastings daily.

**Lynchburg Community Market** has been in existence since 1783 in downtown. It features special events, food festivals, craft shows, collector's showcases and music competition all year long.

## Side Trip: Appomattox

Just 20 miles east of Lynchburg is the quiet village of Appomattox Court House. Here, you can retrace the events of Lee's surrender to Grant, browse shops in the picturesque downtown, then stay in a comfortable historic inn.

After the fall of Petersburg and Richmond on April 2, 1865, Confederate General Robert E. Lee and his Army of Northern Virginia headed west from Petersburg toward Amelia Court House along the long road that would lead eventually to Appomattox Court House.

After the Civil War the tiny community of Appomattox Courthouse became something of a backwater and was finally abandoned altogether in 1892. Nearby Appomattox Station, on the

other hand, grew and became prosperous due to its position on the railroad.

During the late 1880s, a group of Union veterans formed the Appomattox Land Company to develop the area. Their plans never came to fruition, and unfortunately, the little village was allowed to deteriorate. The old buildings either fell down or were plundered for their building materials. Then, in 1930, Congress passed a bill that provided for the building of a monument at the site of the old Appomattox court house. The monument was never built, but the idea had been kindled and, in 1934, it was suggested that the entire village be restored to its wartime condition. The idea was received with enthusiasm and a bill creating the **Appomattox Court House National Historic Park** was signed into law on August 3, 1935. The land was quickly acquired, but the project was interrupted by World War II. After the war, work on the project began in earnest and the park was opened to the public and dedicated on April 6, 1954.

The reconstructed village looks much the same today as it did in 1865. The old buildings on view today, all lovingly restored, include the McLean House, where the surrender took place, Meeks' Store, the Woodson Law Office, the Clover Hill Tavern, the jail, the Kelly House, the Mariah Wright House, the Isbell House, the Peers House, and the Surrender Triangle, where the Confederate regiments laid down their arms and furled their banners.

Before you leave Appomattox, you might like to visit the site of the Battle at Appomattox Station a few miles away in the modern city of Appomattox. Appomattox Station was where General Sheridan captured General Lee's supply trains, thus forcing him to surrender.

## *Entertainment*

The **Lynchburg Fine Arts Center** (☎ 804-846-8451), the **Lynchburg Symphony Orchestra** (☎ 804-845-6604), the **Virginia School of the Arts** (☎ 804-847-8688) and the arts programs of Lynchburg's four local colleges provide arts and entertainment on all levels. From the grass roots of the little theater to classical ballet, Lynchburg can offer it all.

**The Jefferson Choral Society** (☎ 804-525-9116) performs classical music at least four times each year. **The Lynchburg Symphony** presents seven concerts including two for young people and a free outdoor concert with fireworks each season. **The Ellington Fellowship Playhouse** (☎ 804-845-2162) presents renowned artists several times a month who perform concerts and workshops. **The Cherry Tree Players** (☎ 804-384-4577) are a professional non-profit theater group who con-

duct a year-round theater school and produce five main stage productions. **The Renaissance Theater** (☎ 804-845-4427) presents contemporary productions through the year, and **Community Concerts** present four diverse performances annually at the E.C. Glass auditorium (☎ 804-522-3700).

# *Shopping*

Shops, stores and outlets scattered around the city offer everything from antiques to fine clothing, and from gifts to handicrafts. Shopping centers include the **River Ridge Mall**, **Candler Station** and **Waterlick Plaza**. **The Lynchburg Community Market** features restaurants, local handcrafts and fresh product year-round at 1219 Main Street, Lynchburg, ☎ 804-847-1499.

# *Recreation*

## *Parks & Natural Areas*

**The Blackwater Creek Natural Area**, located right in the heart of the city, offers a pleasant, open-air environment with some 3½ miles of paved pathways for bikers and joggers, and nine more miles of woodland, creekside nature trails. A map of the 300-acre area is available from the Lynchburg Chamber of Commerce, the Parks and Recreation Department and the Visitor Center. ☎ 800-732-5821.

**The Blue Ridge Mountains**, **the Blue Ridge Parkway** and several access points to the **Appalachian Trail** are only minutes away from Lynchburg. The Blue Ridge and the Greater Lynchburg area offer abundant opportunities for camping, hiking, backpacking, fishing, nature watching and wildlife photography.

**Holliday Lake State Park**, Route 2, Box 622, Appomattox, ☎ 804-248-6308.

## *Golf*

The nearby community of Forest has three 18-hole courses, **Colonial Hills**, ☎ 804-525-3954, **London Downs**, ☎ 804-525-4653, and **Poplar Forest**, ☎ 804-525-0473.

## *Other Activities*

**Putt Putt Golf & Games**, 8105 Timberland Road, ☎ 804-237-7888, has 54 putting holes, a go-kart track, and arcade.

## *Annual Events*

**Fair by the James** is held the last weekend in April along the downtown Lynchburg riverfront. ☎ 804-528-3950.

**Historic Garden Day** in April opens private homes and gardens throughout the city. ☎ 804-847-1811.

**River in Time Batteau Festival**, held in June, is a seven-day re-enactment of travel by batteau (a flat-bottomed boat of the 1700s) from Lynchburg to Richmond. There is also a Civil War re-enactment, Indian history and black history programs. ☎ 804-528-3950.

**Kaleidoscope** is Lynchburg's fall celebration during the month September. The event features a broad agenda of activities, arts, entertainment and sports events. ☎ 804-847-1811.

**Lynchburg Art Festival** is held in September. ☎ 804-528-9434.

**The Virginia Garlic Festival** is held in the fall, and features a garlic cook-off, gourmet foods, wine tasting, music, arts and crafts. Rebec Vineyards, five miles north of Amherst on Route 29, ☎ 804-946-5168.

**The Historic Appomattox Railroad Festival** in Appomattox Court House (about 20 miles east of Lynchburg) offers two days of fun in the fall, featuring food, crafts, music, antiques and dancing. ☎ 804-352-7191.

**Christmas at Point of Honor**, held the first Sunday in December, re-creates a Federal-style Christmas, featuring plantation party decorations, music and refreshments. ☎ 804-847-1459.

**Christmas at Red Hill** is held the first Sunday in December and features 18th-century decorations, music and refreshments. ☎ 804-376-2044.

## *Dining*

**The Crown Sterling**, 6120 Fort Avenue, ☎ 804-239-7744, is open for dinner and specializes in beef and fine American dining. Reservations are recommended.

**The East Side Crab Shack**, 4716 Richmond Highway, ☎ 804-528-0080, is open for dinner. The restaurant specializes in Maryland-style steamed crabs and all-you-can-eat steamed shrimp. Closed Mondays.

**Johnny Bulls**, 2900 Candler's Mountain Road, ☎ 804-237-6333, is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner. The restaurant serves a variety of food, specializing in Italian.

**The Kyoto Fantasy Japanese Steakhouse**, 2160 Wards Road, ☎ 804-237-9134, is open for dinner and specializes in steak, chicken and shrimp prepared at the table. Reservations are recommended.

**The Landmark Steakhouse**, 6113 Fort Avenue, ☎ 804-237-1884, is open for lunch and dinner and serves prime rib, steaks, chicken and a seafood. Reservations are recommended.

**Meriwether's Market Restaurant**, 4925 Boonsboro Road, ☎ 804-384-3311, is a wine and specialty food shop and gourmet restaurant.

**Sachiko's Porthouse Restaurant and Lounge**, 126 Old Graves Mill Road, ☎ 804-237-5655, is open for dinner and offers beef, chicken, lamb and seafood, plus assorted pastries baked in-house.

**Babcock House Bed & Breakfast Inn and Restaurant**, 106 Oakleigh Avenue, Appomattox, ☎ 800-689-6208 or 804-352-7532, has six guest rooms in an 1890s home.

**Jeanne's Restaurant**, US Highway 460 East, Appomattox, ☎ 804-993-2475, is known for its great steaks and seafood.

# *Accommodations*

Most establishments offer both handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms, but be sure to ask when making reservations.

## *Hotels & Motels*

**Best Western** 2815 Candler's Mountain Road, ☎ 804-237-2986, offers 87 rooms. The hotel has a restaurant and gives a senior citizen discount. $$

**Comfort Inn**, 3125 Albert Lankford Drive, ☎ 804-847-9041, is a comfortable hotel with 120 rooms including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. There is a swimming pool, meeting rooms and free local transportation. Free continental breakfast; senior citizen discounts available. $$

**Days Inn**, 3320 Candler's Mountain Road, ☎ 804-847-8655, is a quiet hotel within walking distance of the mall and movie theaters. There are 131 rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. The hotel has a swimming pool, meeting rooms and offers free local transportation. Free full breakfast; senior citizen discount. $$

**Hampton Inn**, 5604 Seminole Avenue, ☎ 804-237-2704, has 65 rooms and offers guests a complimentary deluxe breakfast, handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms, a swimming pool and free local transportation. Senior discounts. $$

**Holiday Inn Express**, 5600 Seminole Avenue, ☎ 804-237-7771, has 104 rooms. Handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms are available. Facilities include a swimming pool and hospitality suites for special occasions. Free continental breakfast. Discounts for seniors. $$

**Holiday Inn Select**, 601 Main Street, ☎ 804-528-2500, has 243 rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. There is a

full-service restaurant and café, a swimming pool, meeting rooms, room and valet service and free local transportation. Pets are allowed in the guest rooms and the management offers senior citizen discounts. $$

**Howard Johnson Lodge**, two miles north of Lynchburg on Highway 29, ☎ 804-845-7041, is a small, well-appointed hotel with 70 rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. Private patios offer spectacular views of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The hotel has a full-service restaurant and café, a swimming pool, meeting rooms, an exercise room, valet and room service and offers free local transportation. Senior discount. $$

**Lynchburg Hilton**, 2900 Candler's Mountain Road, ☎ 804-237-6333, is a large, luxury hotel with 167 rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms, ballroom, convention facilities and lounge. Other amenities include full-service restaurant and café, a swimming pool, meeting rooms, an exercise room, room and valet service and free local transportation. Free continental breakfast. $$

## *Bed & Breakfasts / Inns*

**1880s Madison House**, 413 Madison Street, ☎ 800-828-6422, is an elegant Victorian mansion on Garland Hill. The Madison House offers five unique, opulent guest rooms, a full gourmet breakfast and complimentary English tea. $$-$$$

**Federal Crest Inn B&B**, 1101 Federal Street, ☎ 804-845-6155, has four guest rooms and one suite, all with private baths, fireplaces, down comforters, canopy beds and whirlpool tubs. Georgian Revival home surrounded by magnolias. www.federalcrest.com. $$$

**The Lynchburg Mansion Inn**, 405 Madison Street, ☎ 804-528-5400, is a Spanish Georgian mansion with more than 9,000 square feet of space. Amenities include five private rooms and suites, private bathrooms, working fireplaces, and a full breakfast served in the formal dining room. $$$

**Nana's Cottage Bed & Breakfast**, 2475 Coffee Road, ☎ 804-384-4911, has a one- and two-bedroom suite, and offers guests a choice of a room-delivered breakfast basket or a gourmet breakfast served in the gazebo. $$-$$$

**Norvell-Otey House**, 1020 Federal Street, ☎ 804-528-1020, has four rooms, three with private bath, in an 1817 Federal-style manor house. $$$

**The Residence**, 2460 Rivermont Avenue, ☎ 804-845-6565 or 888-835-0387, has three rooms and one suite, three with private baths. It is a former Randolph-Macon Woman's College presidential home. www.theresidence.com. $$-$$$

### *Camping*

**Wildwood Campgrounds**, Route 130, Monroe, ☎ 804-299-5228, is a full-service facility, offering a pool, fishing, horseshoes, recreation room.

**Paradise Lake Campground**, US 460W, PO Box 478, Appomattox, VA 24522, ☎ 804-993-3332.

## *Transportation*

The **Lynchburg Regional Airport** is served by several major airlines, with departures daily. **Greyhound Lines** provides passenger and parcel service. **Amtrak** offers passenger service.

Lynchburg is accessed by a network of highways that includes **US Routes 29, 460** and **501**.

## *Information*

**Greater Lynchburg Convention and Visitors Bureau**, 12th & Church Streets, Lynchburg, VA 24504, ☎ 800-732-5821.

**Visitor Information Center**, Appomattox County Chamber of Commerce, 5 Main Street, in old train depot, ☎ 804-352-2621. Open daily 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. www.appomattox.com.

**Appomattox Court House National Historic Park**, PO Box 218, Appomattox, VA 24522. ☎ 804-352-8987.

# Nelson County

Exploring the 471 square miles of unspoiled natural beauty that is Nelson County could take some time. The Blue Ridge Mountains, the George Washington National Forest, Crabtree Falls and the James River are only a few of the outstanding attractions. Unspoiled is definitely the word; you won't see many traffic lights in Nelson County. You will, however, be able to fish the quiet streams, rest at a country inn, tour a vineyard, visit a multitude of unique shops and, of course, enjoy the magnificent scenery. There's even a country resort where you can do everything from golf to skiing.

Rich in history, Nelson County is home to such 18th- and 19th-century treasures as Woodson's Mill and the elegantly restored Oak Ridge estate. And the county is within easy reach of many of Virginia's most celebrated historical sites, including the homes of four US presidents and several important Civil War landmarks.

# *History*

Native Americans were the first settlers to arrive in what is now Nelson County. Ancestors of the **Algonquin**, **Sioux** and **Iroquois Indians** migrated to the area some 11,000 years ago in search of mammoths and mastodons. Not finding any, some of the tribes decided to stay to hunt, fish and gather the native plants.

In the 17th and 18th centuries, thousands of English pioneers emigrated to the colonies, settling in Jamestown, filling the Tidewater area and then building settlements along the James River. By the late 1730s, the settlers had arrived with their slaves and indentured servants in what is present-day Nelson, Amherst and Albemarle Counties. They were tobacco growers and interested in acquiring the large tracts of frontier land they needed to grow this valuable cash crop.

During the same period, Scotch-Irish, Irish and German immigrants were moving into the Shenandoah Valley from Pennsylvania and Northern Virginia looking for cheaper land and the freedom to worship as "dissenters" of the Anglican religion. Many of them settled in the western part of present-day Nelson County. French Huguenots also brought their culture and skills to the area. They settled in Lovingston and Shipman.

Nelson County was formed from parts of Amherst in 1807, and named for **Thomas Nelson Jr.**, the third governor of Virginia.

In the 19th century, the western part of Nelson County became an important apple-producing region. Apples and other produce were shipped to markets by canal and railroad. Water-powered grist mills and logging operations employed the county's residents. Several mills were built along the canals and rivers, and villages grew up around them.

The eastern side of Nelson County prospered from the discovery of large deposits of soapstone, a metamorphic rock unaffected by acids and heat. It is used to build fireplaces, mantels and stoves. The **Virginia Soapstone Company** – it later became Alberene Soapstone – was founded in Schuyler and is today the New World Stone Company where talented sculptors produce fine works of art from soapstone.

The turn of the 19th century was the high point for Nelson County's economy. By the time the Great Depression arrived, the county had already experienced several years of recession, and the population dropped steadily from a high of 17,000 to 11,000, as young people left looking for jobs.

For the next 40 years or so, life continued quietly in Nelson County. Then disaster struck in the form of **Hurricane Camille**. The destruction in Nelson County was of a magnitude that has never occurred before or since. Rivers and creeks burst their banks, exploding onto the countryside, gouging out huge new water courses, lifting houses off their foundations, crumbling roads and bridges. Huge chunks of mountain slid off the

bedrock sending tons of mud, boulders and trees tumbling down into the valleys. Thirty inches of rain fell in a six-hour period – a phenomenon likely to happen only once in a thousand years. Hurricane Camille took the lives of 134 people and destroyed 300 buildings, 130 bridges and culverts and well over half of the county's roads.

Nelson County slowly recovered from the disaster that was Camille. Events that aided in the recovery include the development of Wintergreen Resort, the restoration of Oak Ridge, the development of the Walton's Mountain Museum, the resurgence of the apple industry, the maturing of new vineyards and the steady growth of Nelson County's tourism industry.

## *Sights*

Nelson County offers a number of exciting attractions. These include panoramic views of the Blue Ridge Mountains, crystal rivers and streams, fabulous sunsets and the tiny communities that provide the county with a character all its own.

**Crabtree Falls** is the highest waterfall east of the Mississippi. The Crabtree Falls Trail features a series of five major cascades and a number of smaller ones that fall a total of 1,200 feet. The area offers a feeling of isolation and freedom in a forest stream setting to both hikers and backpackers.

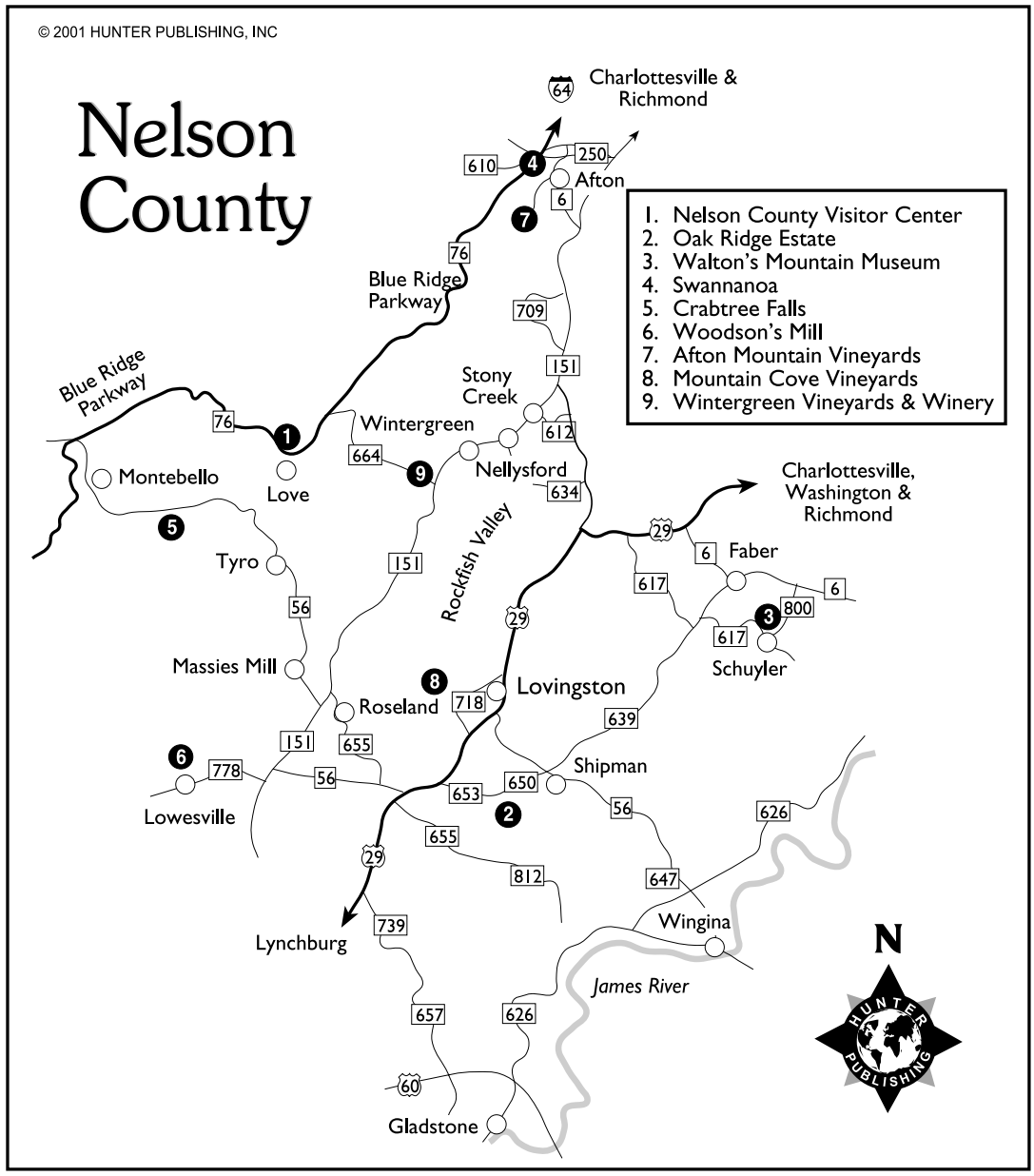
After crossing an arched wooden bridge spanning the Tye River, the trail wanders through rugged mountainside capturing scenic views of the magnificent waterfalls. The trail provides views of the falls from overlooks designed to accent the natural beauty of the valley. The first overlook is just 700 feet from the lower parking lot, making it an excellent stopover for travelers. More adventuresome hikers may continue on to the other overlooks, to Crabtree Meadows where the trail ends, or to the Appalachian Trail just a half-mile beyond Crabtree Meadows.

The peak season for viewing the waterfalls is from winter through spring when the water is at its highest. Good hiking boots or comfortable walking shoes are recommended. During the winter the trail may be covered with snow and ice, and so should be traveled with caution.

The trail is most easily reached from Route 56 near Montebello, just off the Blue Ridge Parkway. ☎ 540-261-6105 or 800-282-8223.

**The Oak Ridge Estate** is a plantation of some 5,000 acres that provides an unsurpassed combination of diverse architectural structures and expansive vistas.

The mansion, built in 1802, became the home of Thomas Fortune Ryan at the turn of the 20th century. Ryan's middle name, Fortune, was an appro-




priate one, for this Nelson County native of humble beginnings became one of the 10 wealthiest men in the country.

Ryan made a number of alterations to the original structure. He established a formal Italian garden and built more than 80 out-buildings, including a rotunda greenhouse, a carriage house, a railroad station, a dairy complex and a spring house. The remains of an abandoned airstrip, horse racing track and underground watering system that pre-dates any city water system may also be seen at the estate.

The two-hour guided tour includes the first floor of the mansion and sections of the grounds. Open in the summer Tuesday through Saturday; call for a tour the rest of year. ☎ 804-263-8676.

**Walton's Mountain Museum**. Earl Hamner Jr. created the story behind the Waltons television series based on his own family's experiences

growing up during the Depression era in this rural village of Schuyler. The school building he and his siblings attended has been converted to a museum which contains nostalgic memorabilia, replicas of the sets created for the series and an audio-visual presentation. Interesting exhibits in the museum include John-Boy's bedroom; the Walton's Kitchen, which features a long table and benches; the Walton's Living Room, a 1930s-style family room with period furnishings; and Ike Godsey's Store.

The museum is open seven days a week, March through November, and is located at Routes 617 and 800 in Schuyler, ☎ 804-831-2000.

**Woodson's Mill**, on Route 778 in Lowesville, has been noted by historians as one of the finest examples of a 19th-century mill in the state. The old mill is not only intact, it is still operating much as it did in the early 1800s. All of the mill's machinery is powered by water, and some five tons of wheat, corn and other grain are ground each week just as they were almost 200 years ago.

The mill was originally built in 1794 by Guiliford Campbell. Back then it was called Big Piney Mill. The present structure, built on the foundations of the original mill and completed in 1845, is a fine example of four-story post-and-beam construction. The old mill was purchased in 1900 by Dr. Julian Woodson who, besides being a miller, was both a medical doctor and a dentist.

Today, the mill continues to function with two waterwheels that drive two runs of millstones. The mill also houses an operating cider press.

Woodson's Millis open on Saturdays. There are several picnic tables and a shelter on the grounds. For more information, call the **Nelson County Department of Tourism** at ☎ 800-282-8223.

## *Recreation*

Outdoor enthusiasts will enjoy the many hiking, fishing, hunting and boating opportunities available in Nelson County. More than 19,000 acres of the vast **George Washington and Jefferson National Forests** (☎ 540-261-6105) are within the county, and the **Appalachian Trail** (☎ 703-242-0315) passes through its northwest portion. For boaters and fishermen, there are public boat launches at **Tye River Park** and **Lake Nelson**. There's also the **James River Wildlife Management Area** on Route 626, offering wildlife viewing, fishing, hiking and biking trails.

Or, you may choose to enjoy a relaxing day seeing the local wineries and apple farms. Apple harvesting season in particular is an exciting time and many of the orchards are open to the public. The wineries offer tours and the opportunity to taste the local product.

## *Apple Country*

**A.T. Davidson & Sons Packing Shed** is on Route 6 East in Faber, one mile off US Highway 29. Red and Golden Delicious, Winesap, Rome, Stayman, Granny Smith, Ginger Gold, Empire and Gala apples are all grown on this farm. The old-fashioned packing house also offers pumpkins, cider, gourds, Indian corn and vegetables. The farm is open daily during the apply season. ☎ 804-263-4223.

**Dickie Brothers Orchard** is on Route 666 off Route 56W in Roseland. The orchard is well known for its Red and Golden Delicious, Winesap, Rome, Stayman and Granny Smith apples, as well as for cider, apple butter and pumpkins. The farm is open seven days a week. ☎ 804-277-5866 or 804-277-8609.

**Drumheller's Orchard** is on Route 741 off US Highway 29 in Lovingston. Produce available to the public includes Red and Golden Delicious, Winesap, Rome, York, Stayman and Granny Smith apples, along with cider, apple butter, honey, baskets and pumpkins. ☎ 804-263-5036.

**Fitzgerald's Orchard** is on Route 682, off Route 56W, in Tyro. Produce available at the farm includes Red and Golden Delicious, Winesap, Rome, York, Stayman, Gala and Granny Smith apples. Fitzgerald's is open Monday through Saturday. ☎ 804-277-5798.

**Flippin-Seaman Packing Shed** are well known for their Empire, Jonathan, Red and Golden Delicious, Winesap, Rome, York, Stayman, Gala and Granny Smith apples; and for their apple butter, cider, baskets, honey, jellies, pumpkins, dried flowers and gifts. The packing shed is on Route 56W in Tyro, and is open Monday through Saturday. ☎ 804-277-5824.

**Saunders Orchards**, on Route 56W at Piney River, offer visitors a variety of fine produce including Red and Golden Delicious, Gala, Braeburn, Rome, York, Stayman, Gala and Granny Smith apples. ☎ 804-277-5455.

❖ *More than 40 varieties of apples are grown in Nelson County. In the spring the blossoms are something to see, and in the fall the harvest is in. To obtain a fact sheet and a driving tour map, call the Nelson County Department of Tourism, ☎ 800-282-8223.*

# *Winery Tours*

Obtain a fact sheet, map and information on wine festivals from the Nelson County Department of Tourism, ☎ 800-282-8223.

**Afton Mountain Vineyards**, located on a southeastern slope of the Blue Ridge Mountains at 960 feet, have a *terroir* especially suited to the growing of Europe's noble wine grapes and Afton Mountain wines have

won awards in California as well as on the East Coast. The winery is open for tours, tastings and picnics daily, except Tuesday. The vineyard is located on Route 631 south. ☎ 540-456-8667.

**Mountain Cove Vineyards** consists of 12 acres of vineyards planted to seven varieties of hybrid grapes. Visitors can tour the winery, taste the product, follow the process from vine to bottle and learn first-hand how wine is made. The winery is off Route 718 in Lovingston and is open for tours Wednesday through Sunday in the afternoons. ☎ 804-263-5392.

**The Wintergreen Vineyard** is in the beautiful Rockfish Valley adjacent to the Blue Ridge Parkway. The vineyards and winery offer spectacular views during all seasons of the year. Part of the historic Highview Plantation built by the Rodes family, the vineyard sites are well-suited to the growing of hybrid and vinifera varieties that produce the finest wines. The vineyard is on Route 664 and is open every day. ☎ 804-361-2519.

## *Shopping*

Neat little shops and stores selling everything from antiques to fine jewelry, and from outdoor sportswear to hand-crafted curios are dotted here and there across the county and in a half-dozen or so tiny communities. And, as you travel the country roads from one shop to the next, you're sure of a smile and a welcome at every one.

## *Dining*

Restaurants with quaint names like the Blue Ridge Pig, the Chicken Coop, and the Copper Mine offer everything from sophisticated smoked meat to seafood, and from burgers to home-made apple pie. The Wintergreen Resort alone has five fine restaurants that offer a range of dining, including an elegant gourmet experience or casual family dining with panoramic views of the Shenandoah Valley. For a complete list, call the Nelson County Department of Tourism at ☎ 800-282-8223.

**Blue Ridge Pig**, Highway 151, Nellysford, ☎ 804-361-1170, is rustic yet sophisticated, offering smoked-meat sandwiches.

**Café Verandah**, at the Stoney Creek Golf Course, Wintergreen Resort, ☎ 804-325-8110, combines upscale items with Virginia home-cooking.

**Chicken Coop**, Business Route 29, Lovingston, ☎ 804-263-5300, offers chicken and barbecue.

**Copper Mine**, Wintergreen Resort, ☎ 804-325-8090, offers elegant gourmet dining.

**Devils Grill**, ☎ 804-325-8100, is located on top of the mountain at Devils Knob golf course.

**Dulaney's Steak and Seafood**, located at The Inn at Afton, ☎ 540-943-7167.

**The Edge at Cooper's Vantage**, Wintergreen Resort, ☎ 804-325-8080, offers casual family dining with view of the Blue Ridge.

**Jim & Stu's Bistro**, Highway 151, Nellysford, ☎ 804-361-1234, has gourmet pizza and live entertainment on the weekends.

**Lovingston Café**, 165 Front Street, Lovingston, ☎ 804-263-8000, serves up steaks, seafood and wholesome vegetarian meals.

**Schuyler Family Restaurant**, next to Walton's Mountain Museum, ☎ 804-831-3333.

**Vito's Italian Restaurant**, Highway 29, Lovingston, ☎ 804-263-8688.

## *Accommodations*

No, you won't find any of the great hotels in Nelson County, but you will find a variety of bed & breakfasts and country inns, which provide a level of personal service that's hard to beat.

Most establishments offer both handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms, but be sure to ask when making reservations.

### *Bed & Breakfasts / Inns*

**The Acorn Inn**, on Route 634 at Nellysford, ☎ 804-361-9357, offers guests a choice of three accommodations. The Acorn Cottage, a cozy house with a kitchen, bathroom and queen bedroom, is popular with honeymooners and families with small children. The inn was, in years gone by, a horse stable that today offers comfortable, contemporary lodgings with the feel of an art gallery. Each of its 10 bright, carpeted bedrooms has stable doors, a double bed, a writing desk and a big window. The Farmhouse has two queen guest rooms with hardwood floors, handsewn quilts and an eclectic mixture of South American art and photographs, as well as big windows that offer stunning views of the mountains and meadows. $-$$

**The Looking Glass House** is a gracious Virginia farmhouse, built in 1848, fully restored and furnished with antiques from around the world. Guests enjoy a somewhat formal, though inviting, country house with wicker-filled porches and an English dining room with Victorian silver antiques. A full gourmet breakfast is included in the rate. There are four guest rooms, each with private bath. The Looking Glass House is in Afton on Highway 151. ☎ 540-456-6844 or 800-769-6844. $$

**Mark Addy**, in Nellysford on Highway 151, has been beautifully restored and lovingly appointed to recreate the richness and romance of a bygone era. The enchanting rooms and opulent suites give an atmosphere of lux-

ury and relaxation rarely found in a commercial hotel. The nine guest rooms have private bathrooms and some offer magnificent views of the surrounding countryside. Guests can enjoy a quiet afternoon on one of five sunlit porches or take a ramble on the Mark Addy's 12½ acres. ☎ 804-361-1101 or 800-278-2154. $$-$$$

**The Meander Inn**, Route 612 in Nellysford, ☎ 804-361-1121, is an 80-year-old Victorian farmhouse perfect for a relaxing vacation and refreshing change of pace. The inn sits on 50 acres alongside the Rockfish River and offers its guests the comfort of a rural working horse farm. There are five guest rooms, all with private bath. Enjoy spectacular views of the Blue Ridge Mountains, the soft sounds of the river, a glass of wine at sunset, a hot tub under the stars and a sense of well being. The inn serves a generous country breakfast. $$$

## *Resorts*

**The Wintergreen Resort** is an 11,000-acre facility offering a variety of year-round recreational opportunities. The resort is high atop Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains, with spectacular views of the surrounding valleys and ridges. Reach Wintergreen on Route 664, between mileposts 13 and 14 on the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Wintergreen can accommodate more 1,000 guests in a variety of rental homes and condominiums ranging in size from studios to six bedrooms. Most of the units have fireplaces and fully-equipped kitchens. Some offer magnificent views of the mountains and valleys.

The Mountain Conference Center can accommodate groups from 10 to 500 people with more than 25,000 square feet of meeting and banquet space in 15 rooms.

Recreational facilities at the resort are both spectacular and extensive. Devils Knob 18-hole golf course is the highest in Virginia, and there's also the 18-hole Stoney Creek championship golf course.

Other facilities at Wintergreen include 20 composition clay and five all-weather, hard surface tennis courts; one indoor and five outdoor swimming pools; 17 ski slopes and trails; the 20-acre Lake Monocan for swimming and canoeing; an equestrian center and stables; the Wintergreen Spa-indoor/outdoor sports facility; and the Stoney Creek Fly Fishing stream. There is also a 30-mile network of marked hiking trails, an outdoor center and nature program and bicycles available for rent.

During the summer, Wintergreen offers special children's programs in a variety of fun-filled activities, as well as a special nature program that introduces the youngsters to the natural beauty and wildlife of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Wintergreen has five full-service restaurants offering everything from fine continental cuisine to country-style family meals. Three lounges are

good places to relax after a strenuous day in the outdoors; and two seasonal restaurants offer extra service for golfers and skiers.

The climate at Wintergreen provides cool mountain breezes and low humidity during the spring and summer; summer temperature rarely exceeds 85°. Colder temperatures in the winter, combined with the mountain elevation, provide excellent skiing from December through March.

Wintergreen is also home to the Outdoor Wilderness Leadership School, offering experiences in mountain biking, rappelling, rock climbing and kayaking.

For more information and reservations, contact the Wintergreen Resort, PO Box 706, Wintergreen, VA 22958, ☎ 800-266-2444 or 804-325-2200, or visit www.WintergreenResort.com.

## *Transportation*

Nelson County is in Central Virginia and lies on the eastern slope of the Blue Ridge Mountains. It lies midway between the **Lynchburg Regional Airport** and **Charlottesville-Albemarle Airport**. **Greyhound** serves Lexington and the nearest **Amtrak** service is in Charlottesville.

## *Information*

For more information and brochures, contact the **Nelson County Department of Tourism**, US Highway 29, PO Box 636, Nelson County, VA 22949, ☎ 804-263-5239 or 800-282-8223. Their Visitor Center on US Highway 29, just south of Lovingston, is open daily.

# Orange County

Orange County is an inland paradise of gently rolling hills edged to the west by magnificent vistas of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Visitors to Orange enjoy warm summer days and an air of quiet country living far away from the busy life of the great cities.

The towns of Orange and Gordonsville provide a pleasing mixture of modern hospitality and old-world charm. It's one of those rare places where one can enjoy a leisurely stroll through the historic district, browse the shops, and enjoy a quiet meal at any one of a dozen or so family-style restaurants and cafés.

# *History*

Orange County came into being in 1734. It was named for William IV, Prince of Orange and husband of Anne, Princess Royal of England.

Orange County has a rich and interesting history. It was, at its founding, the largest county in Virginia. In Colonial times it encompassed vast tracts of unknown territory ranging from its present eastern border as far west as the Mississippi River, and as far north as the shores of the Great Lakes. Since those early days the county boundaries have steadily contracted. Today they encompass a tiny rural community some 37 miles long by 16 miles at its widest point.

The first settlers of Orange County were a group of German immigrants. They were introduced to the area in 1714 by the Lieutenant Governor of Virginia, **Alexander Spotwood**. Spotwood, it seems, was just as impressed with the area then as tourists are today. Twenty years after the first German settlers arrived he built for himself a palatial mansion. He called it, and the thriving new community of which it was a part, **Germanna**.

Germanna was at the far west of the English territories in the New World. Spotwood, however, was a restless man, an entrepreneur ever on the lookout for new opportunities and new territories to conquer. In 1716 he led an expedition from Germanna westward across the Blue Ridge Mountains in an effort to prove that the mountains were no barrier to the rich lands that lay beyond. Spotwood's expedition had just the desired effect. Soon a general expansion west of the Blue Ridge was under way – an expansion that led ultimately to the settlement of the entire United States.

As well as being an intrepid explorer and pioneer, Spotwood was also an astute businessman. Already Virginians had discovered the colony's vast deposits of minerals and other natural resources, and Spotwood lost no time in exploiting the mineral resources of Germanna. In his day it was iron ore that was successfully mined in large quantities. Later it was gold; one mine continued to operate well into the early 20th century.

The Revolutionary War with England came and went and, although men from the county played significant roles in the conflict, the hostilities, for the most part, bypassed Orange County. The only actions that took place within its boundaries seem to have been Lafayette's march through the county and an English raid that terrorized the area known as Antioch Church. Today, the route followed by Lafayette is still known as the "Marquis Road."

Men from Orange County fought with the Culpeper Minute Men at the Battle of Great Bridge, the first battle of the Revolution fought on Virginia soil. They were also involved in various other Continental or local militia units throughout the war.

Orange County's most famous resident was **James Madison**. Madison was heavily involved in the drafting and ratification of both the US Constitution and the Bill of Rights. And it was a historic meeting with Baptist Elder John Leland in Orange County that inspired the language on religious freedom of the First Amendment. Madison also served as President of the United States during the War of 1812.

The War of 1812 also had little impact on the tranquillity of Orange County. When the Civil War broke out in 1861, however, it was a very different story. The area was the theater for many battles, engagements and skirmishes. The railroads were an important part of General Lee's lifeline. They brought him supplies, troops, and reinforcements throughout the war years. Many Confederate hospitals were established in and around the Town of Orange, and in 1862 the war came violently home to its residents when Union and Confederate troops clashed on the town's streets.

In November, 1863, General Lee's forces and sections of Union General George Gordon Meade's Army of the Potomac clashed when Meade crossed the Rapidan River at Mile Run. The engagement was a victory for the Confederate army. Lee and his great army spent that winter in quarters along the banks of the Rapidan. While he was there, Lee and many members of his staff worshipped at St. Thomas' Episcopal Church in the town of Orange.

The year 1864 saw the fortunes of the Confederate army take a turn for the worse. In May, General US Grant crossed the Rapidan with a great army and succeeded in pushing Lee into the eastern section of Orange County. The resulting **Battle of the Wilderness** was one of the bloodiest encounters of the entire war.

Although the Battle of the Wilderness was a victory for Lee and his Confederate army, it was also the beginning of Grant's relentless campaign of attrition. He knew the Confederacy could not match the resources and numbers of reinforcements available to him. He also knew that if he could keep Lee on the run, force him into battle as often and as quickly as possible, he would reduce Lee's ability to wage an offensive war. Thus, he would slowly bring him to the point where he could resist no more and the war would be over. And Grant was right. First he forced Lee into the bloody Battle of the Wilderness on May 5th and 6th, and then the Battle of Spotsylvania Court House from May 8th through the 12th. Cold Harbor followed on June 1st through the 3rd and, although it was another stunning Confederate victory, the cost was heavy. Both sides suffered enormous losses. Finally, Grant encircled Richmond and laid siege to the important railroad junction of Petersburg. Petersburg fell on April 2, 1865; the war, for all intents and purposes, ended a few days later on April 12th at Appomattox Court House.

With the end of the Civil War, peace and tranquillity returned once again to Orange County. The community soon recovered from those terrible

days now so long ago. Today, little has changed over the hundred and fifty years since General Lee sat and prayed in the little church of St. Thomas.

Its history, and the locally collected and restored evidence of that history, makes the town of Orange and its county an ideal spot for an interesting and relaxing interlude.

## *Sights*

**Montpelier**, about four miles southwest of Orange on Route 20, was the life-long home of the fourth president of the United States and his wife, James and Dolly Madison. Settled in 1723 by Madison's grandparents, Montpelier continued to prosper until after his death, when it was sold by Mrs. Madison to pay off her son's gambling debts.

After Madison's death, the house changed hands six times, eventually becoming the property of William and Ann Rogers Du Pont. The Du Ponts enlarged the old house, added horse barns, greenhouses, a dairy and even a railroad. Du Pont's daughter, Marion Du Pont Scott, took over the property in 1928 and continued to improve and restore it. Her contribution to the estate, which incorporates some 2,700 acres, includes a steeplechase course that, even today, is reckoned to be one of the finest in the country. The Montpelier Hunt Races are held on the course on the first Saturday of November each year.

The property was deeded to the National Trust for Historic Preservation following Mrs. Scott's death in 1983. It was opened to the public in 1987.

Montpelier is open daily, March through December, and on weekends during January and February. ☎ 540-672-2728.

**James Madison Museum**, 129 Caroline Street, offers a unique glimpse into the life and times of our nation's fourth president. The building also houses a "Hall of Agriculture" and is open daily except major holidays. ☎ 540-672-1776.

**St. Thomas' Episcopal Church**, 119 Caroline Street, was built during the years 1833 and 1834 at a cost of $3,500. During the Civil War, after the Battles of Cedar Mountain, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, the Wilderness and Spotsylvania Court House, the church saw extensive use as a Confederate hospital. During the winter of 1863-64 when the Confederate army occupied defensive positions along the Rapidan River, it was a principle place of worship for Confederate General Robert E. Lee and many members of his staff. Of special interest is the Tiffany window located on the left side of the church near the front. Tours of the church may be arranged by calling the church office, ☎ 540-672-3761.

**The Orange County Historical Society**, located at 130 Caroline Street, houses an extensive research and archival collection of more than 2,000 books, periodicals, maps, and files on local families, buildings and

historic sites. The Society's members are scattered across 20 states, the District of Columbia and Canada. The research library and archives are normally open to the public in the afternoons on weekdays, and some Saturdays. Information and research materials are available, not only for Orange County, but for many of its neighboring counties, including Madison, Culpeper, and Greene. Contact the Society at ☎ 540-672-5366.

**The Exchange Hotel Civil War Museum**, in nearby Gordonsville at 400 South Main Street, is a restored railroad hotel that served as a military hospital during the Civil War. Throughout the war years the old hotel received the wounded and the dying from a dozen major battlefields and a hundred or more skirmishes. In one year alone, 23,000 men were treated at the Exchange – 6,000 in one month alone. Today, the hotel houses one of the finest Civil War museums in the area. It also has rooms available for receptions and weddings and is open Tuesday through Saturday and also on Sundays in the summer; closed January through March 15. Contact the Exchange at ☎ 540-832-2944.

**The Wilderness Battlefield** is where General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia clashed with General Grant's Federal forces for the first time on May 5th and 6th, 1864. Self-guided tours of the battlefield begin at the National Park Service Exhibit Shelter on Route 20, one mile west of the intersection with Route 3. For more information, contact the Park Service at ☎ 540-373-4461.

**The Barboursville Ruins**, on the grounds of the Barboursville Winery on Route 777, are all that's left of the home of Governor James Barbour. The house was designed by Barbour's good friend, Thomas Jefferson. Contact the Winery at ☎ 540-832-3824.

**The Barboursville Winery**, on the grounds of the old Barboursville Estate on Route 777, utilize all of the most modern growing techniques. The vineyards, some 90 acres set on an estate which incorporates 850 acres of beautiful rolling hillside close to the Blue Ridge Mountains, take great pride in their award-winning Chardonnays, Cabernets and other fine wines. The Barboursville Vineyards welcome visitors for tours of the ruins and wine tasting year-round, Monday through Saturday and on Sunday afternoons. The Vineyards are closed on major holidays, including Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's. ☎ 540-832-3824.

**Rapidan Village**, founded in 1772, is a small community with an interesting history. During the Civil War the village changed hands 15 times. After fighting all day, it has been said that members of both armies swam the Rapidan River at night to trade with each other. The **Waddell Memorial Church** in Rapidan is a fine example of carpenter Gothic architecture.

# Entertainment

**Four County Players** give presentations throughout the year. This community theater group is housed in a converted, early 20th-century schoolhouse in Barboursville. ☎ 540-832-5355.

# Shopping

For the discerning shopper on the hunt for that little something special, a number of antique stores and gift shops offer a variety of unusual gifts and memorabilia in Orange. Arts & crafts stores have an abundance of hand-crafted gifts, folk art and toys. Orange also has several galleries, an herb shop and a flea market where one can browse the stalls.

# Recreation

## Water Sports

**Lake Orange** is a 124-acre lake with a marina and a number of picnic areas where you can spend a quiet day out in the country fishing, hiking, boating, picnicking or simply relaxing in the sunshine. Only rowboats or boats with electric motors are allowed on the lake. ☎ 540-672-3997.

**Lake Anna** is a magnificent 13,000-acre water park. It has several marinas where boat ramps are available for public use, and boat rentals, fishing tackle and bait can be arranged for at the marina stores. Activities at Lake Anna include sailing, water-skiing, hiking, boating, picnicking and fishing for largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, yellow perch, bluegill, black crappie, pumpkinseed, walleye, pickerel, carp, striped bass, sunfish and channel catfish. Take US 1 south from Orange to State Route 208 west, and then go to State Route 601 north. For more information ☎ 540-895-5051.

**The Rapidan River** offers scenic river rafting, tubing, canoeing and fishing. It flows through the heart of Orange County. From the town of Orange, take Route 15 North.

**Oakland Heights Farm Horseback Riding**, Route 15, Gordonsville, ☎ 540-832-3350.

**Skydive Orange**, offers skydiving at the Orange Airport, Route 20 South, ☎ 540-942-3871.

## Golf

Golfers can play at **Brownings Golf Course**, in Gordonsville, ☎ 540-854-4454; **Meadow Farms Golf Course**, in Locust Grove, ☎ 540-854-9890; and **Somerset Golf Club, also** in Locust Grove, ☎ 540-423-1500.

## Annual Events

**President James Madison's Birthday Celebration**, held March 16 at Montpelier, ☎ 540-672-2728.

**The Virginia Historic Gardens Week.** Many private homes and gardens throughout the area are open to the public during this week of celebration in April, ☎ 540-672-9101.

**Montpelier Wine Festival**, held the first weekend in May, is a two-day celebration held on the grounds of the Montpelier estate emphasizing local wines, crafts, food, music, and fun, ☎ 540-672-1653.

**Dolly Madison Birthday Celebration**, May 20 at Montpelier, ☎ 540-672-2728.

**The Orange County Fair**, held in July, is a real, old-fashioned country fair with all the sights and sounds associated with such an event, ☎ 540-854-5132.

**Annual Shakespeare at the Ruins** is held the last weekend in July at the Barboursville Ruins, ☎ 540-832-5355.

**The Somerset Steam and Gas Pasture Party**, held the last weekend in August, offers demonstrations of working antique steam and gas driven tractors and automobiles, ☎ 540-672-2495.

**Annual Orange Street Festival**, held the first weekend in September, offers visitors a wealth of arts, crafts, food, music, and fun for all. ☎ 540-672-5216.

**Annual Gordonsville Street Festival** is on the first Saturday in October, ☎ 540-832-5853.

**Annual Montpelier Hunt Races**, held on the Montpelier estate on the first Saturday in November, involves both steeplechasing and flat racing, ☎ 540-672-0027.

**Christmas Open House**, is held the first weekend in December throughout the Main Street business district of Orange, ☎ 540-672-2540.

## Dining

A town with roots as deep and as old as Orange is well served by a variety of fine dining establishments. There's something for just about everyone, from the wide-open atmosphere of the modern national fast-food chains to the more intimate ambiance of a family-owned café. More than 20 restaurants are located within a short distance of the town center. Many more carry-outs cater to those who want to eat either at their hotel or on the go.

**Country Cookin'**, 13246 James Madison Highway, Orange, ☎ 540-672-5353.

**Dairy Korner Restaurant**, Routes 15 and 20, Orange, ☎ 540-672-4797.

**Firehouse Café and Market**, 137 West Main Street, Orange, ☎ 540-672-9001, serves breakfast and lunch daily, dinner on Friday and Saturday, and Sunday brunch.

**Happy Garden Chinese Restaurant**, 130 East Main Street, Orange, ☎ 540-672-1044.

**Inwood**, Route 15 North, Gordonsville, ☎ 540-832-3411.

**Jean's Café**, 152 Caroline Street, Orange, ☎ 540-672-5690.

**Jeff's Place/Grandma's Pantry**, Routes 20 and 611, Locust Grove, ☎ 540-854-7881.

**Main Street Café**, 119 South Main Street, Gordonsville, ☎ 540-832-7114.

**Mario's Italian Pizza Shop and Restaurant**, 269 Madison Road, Orange, ☎ 540-672-3344.

**Morgan's**, 182 Byrd Street, Orange, ☎ 540-672-0800.

**Not the Same Old Grind**, 110 E. Church Street, Orange, ☎ 540-672-3143.

**Tolliver House Restaurant**, 209 North Main Street, Gordonsville, ☎ 540-832-3485.

**Willow Grove Inn and Restaurant**, 14079 Plantation Way, Route 15 North, Orange, ☎ 540-672-5982.

## *Accommodations*

The Town of Orange offers plenty of places to stay, including a number of quiet country guest houses and bed & breakfast inns.

Most establishments offer both handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms, but be sure to ask when making reservations.

### *Hotels & Motels*

**The Days Inn**, 332 Caroline Street in Orange, ☎ 540-672-4855, has 20 rooms. Rates include complimentary morning coffee and donuts. $$

**The Hidden Inn**, 249 Caroline Street in Orange, ☎ 540-672-3625, offers a romantic Victorian atmosphere with private verandahs, canopied beds, fireplaces and individually decorated rooms. There are 10 rooms, all with private baths. A full breakfast and complimentary afternoon tea are included in the rate, and a gourmet dinner can also be had. $$-$$$

### *Bed & Breakfasts / Inns*

**The Holladay House**, 155 West Main Street in Orange, ☎ 540-672-4893 or 800-358-4422, is a restored Federal-style brick home. There are four guest rooms and two suites, all with private bath, each with their own sitting area, furnished with family pieces. Breakfast may be served in the guest rooms. $$$

**Mayhurst Inn**, 12460 Mayhurst Lane, Orange, ☎ 540-672-2243 or 888-672-5597, has six rooms, all with private baths. This 1859 Italianate Victorian sites on a 37-acre former plantation. $$$

**Rabbit Run**, 305 North High Street, Gordonsville, ☎ 540-832-2892 or 800-791-9204, has four rooms, three with private baths. Full breakfast served. $$

**The Shadows**, 14291 Constitution Highway in Orange, ☎ 540-672-5057, is a restored farmhouse built in 1923 and set on 44 beautiful acres. There are four rooms and two cottages, all with private baths. There is a large stone fireplace and guest rooms are filled with antiques. The Shadows offers its guests a romantic getaway in the country. Rates include a hearty gourmet breakfast. $$

**The Sleepy Hollow Farm**, 16280 Blue Ridge Turnpike in Gordonsville, ☎ 540-832-5555, is an 18th-century house surrounded by all the sights and sounds of the Virginia countryside: cattle in the fields, extensive woodlands and a pond. Three guest rooms and three suites, all with private baths. There's also a gazebo and a children's play area with swings and a sandbox. The house is set amid flower and herb gardens. Rates include a full country breakfast. $$-$$$

**Willow Grove Inn**, 14079 Plantation Way in Orange, ☎ 540-672-5982 or 800-949-1778, is a beautiful mansion set among 37 acres of formal gardens and sloping lawns. There are 10 rooms, all with private baths. The house features antique-filled rooms and a pub. The rate includes a full-course dinner and a hearty plantation breakfast. $$$

## *Transportation*

There are two airports: **Orange County Airport**, ☎ 540-672-2158, and **Gordonsville Airport.**

## *Information*

**Orange County Department of Tourism and Visitors Bureau** is at 122 East Main Street, in the Orange Train Station, Orange, VA 22960. ☎ 540-672-1653 or 800-222-8072, or visit www.visitocva.com.

**Orange Downtown Alliance** is at 130 W. Main Street, Suite 201, Orange, VA 22960. ☎ 540-672-2540.

**Orange County Historical Society** can be reached at 130 Caroline Street, Orange, VA 22960. ☎ 703-672-1653.

**Tourguide, Ltd.**, 10199 Little Skyline Drive, Orange, ☎ 540-672-9414.

# Petersburg (Prince George County)

Petersburg is an independent city located in a tri-county area south of the James River. A visit to the old city is an adventure that transcends more than 350 years of history, culture and American life. The city's past and present come together in Old Towne, a revitalized commercial district of restaurants and sidewalk cafes, boutiques, crafts and antique stores. Only 25 minutes south of Richmond, Petersburg is convenient to the Plantation Country on the James River, as well as the major historic destinations of Williamsburg, Jamestown and Yorktown.

Most visitors associate Petersburg with the closing days of the Civil War, and so they should. Petersburg was the subject of the longest siege in American history. For almost 10 months Confederate General Robert E. Lee and his Army of Northern Virginia held General Grant's overwhelming forces at bay. But Petersburg has been an important transportation and commercial center since before the Revolution.

## *History*

Petersburg's history begins in 1845 when the General Assembly at Jamestown ordered a fort constructed at the falls of the Appomattox River. Fort Henry was duly built and Major General Abraham Wood installed as its first commander.

Nearly 100 years later in 1733, William Byrd II laid the foundations for two cities: Richmond and Petersburg. But it wasn't until 1748 that the General Assembly officially created the town of Petersburg. The towns of Blandford and Pocahontas were created at the same time. In 1784 all three towns, plus a fourth, Ravenscroft, were incorporated as the single town of Petersburg.

It 1781, English troops under the command of Generals Benedict Arnold and William Phillips occupied the town. That same year, English General Lord Cornwallis surrendered his army to George Washington at Yorktown and the War of the American Revolution ended.

The years following the Revolutionary War were years of growth and prosperity. The town became a popular watering hole with a social life that, for a time, eclipsed that of its neighbor to the north, Richmond. But

the euphoric times ended with the advent of the Civil War. At first, Petersburg was little affected by the conflict raging around it. During the early years of the war, the city sent troops to fight for the Southern cause. But Petersburg was far too important to the Confederate war effort to escape attention for long.

By 1864 five railroads ran through the city from all points east, west and south, providing a vital line of supply to and from Richmond. And so it was that the sleepy little city on the river bank became the scene of one of the most extended and devastating sieges in American history. For almost 10 months Confederate forces held on in the face of insurmountable odds until at last, on April 3rd, 1865, General Lee withdrew from the beleaguered city and began his long march to Appomattox and surrender. During the siege more than 28,000 Confederate soldiers and 42,000 Union soldiers lost their lives. The earthworks of that fearful struggle remain today as reminders of a period in Petersburg's history that though long gone, will never be forgotten.

After the Civil War ended, the shattered city slowly recuperated. By 1870 there were 20 more industries operating than there had been before the outbreak of hostilities. Today, besides being a museum of American history, Petersburg is a thriving commercial and industrial city with a bright future.

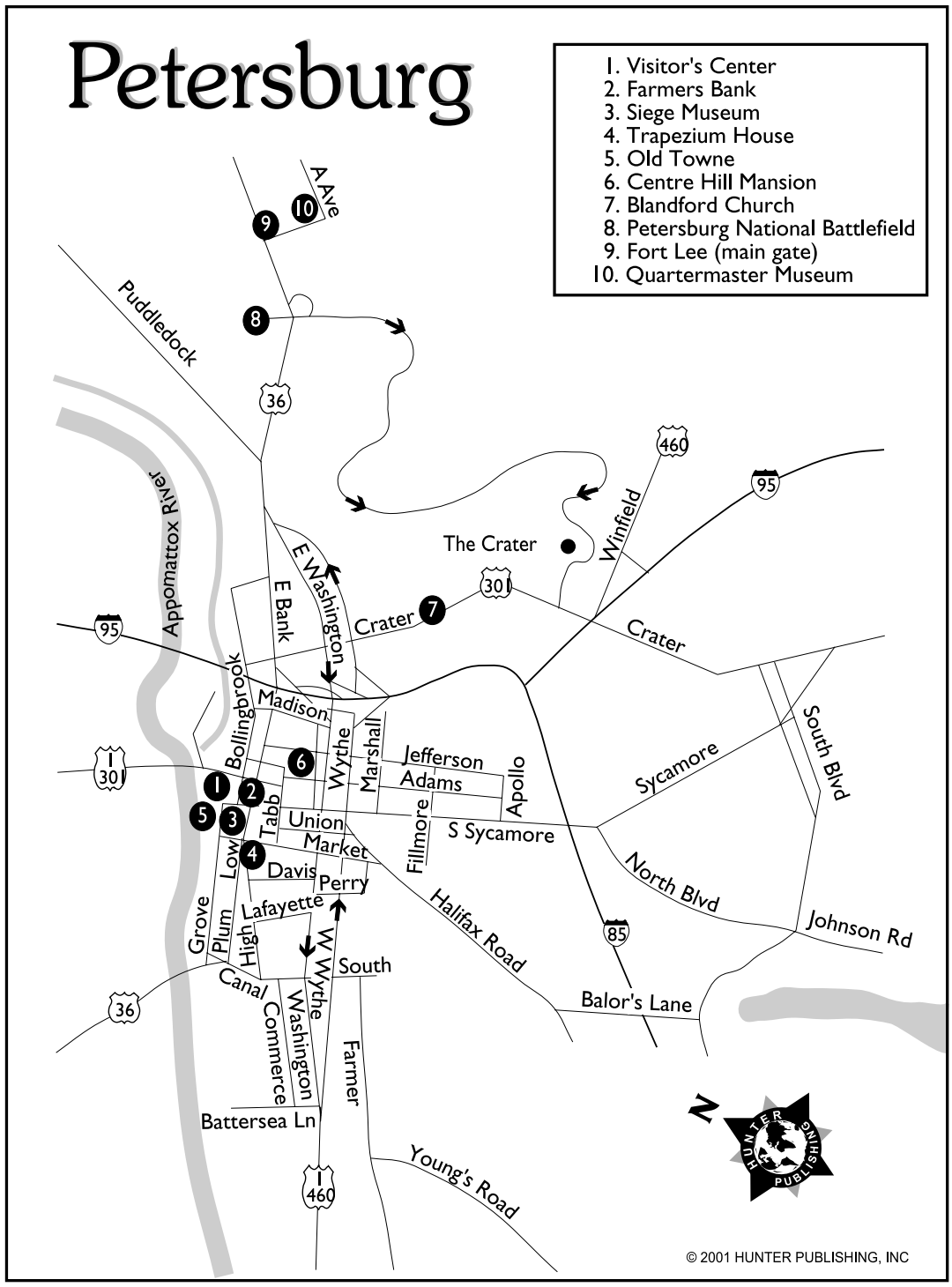
## *Sights*

**The Visitor Center**, located in the McIlwaine House in Old Towne Petersburg, is the best place to begin a tour of the sights. The center is open daily and travel counselors are available to help you plan your tour and provide maps and information. The McIlwaine House is at 425 Cockade Alley, ☎ 800-368-3595.

**The Siege Museum**, 15 West Bank Street, houses the exhibits and memorabilia that interpret the 10-month Civil War siege of Petersburg. A film, *The Echoes Still Remain*, with Joseph Cotten is shown every hour on the hour. The museum is open daily except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. ☎ 804-733-2400.

**Old Blandford Church and Reception Center**, 319 S. Crater Road, was built in 1735. The old parish church was restored in 1901 as a memorial to the Southern soldiers who died during the Civil War. In honor of the Confederate dead, the states each contributed a stained glass window designed by Louis Comfort Tiffany. The old tombstones in the churchyard date to the early 1700s. More than 30,000 Confederate soldiers are buried in the cemetery where the first Memorial Day was observed in June, 1866. ☎ 804-733-2400.

**Centre Hill Mansion**, 1 Centre Hill Court, built in 1823 and remodeled in the 1840s and 1901, is the grandest old home in the city. The Federal-




style building is a testament to the old Southern culture. Ornate woodwork, plaster motifs, antique furnishings and the 1886 inlaid grand piano are only a few of the wonders of Centre Hill. The mansion is at Centre Hill Court and is open daily except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. ☎ 804-733-2400.

**The Trapezium House** is at 244 North Market Street. Eccentric Irish bachelor Charles O'Hara built this house in 1817. He built it in the form of a trapezium – without right angles or parallel walls – because he believed a story told to him by his West Indian slave that such a house could

not harbor ghosts and spirits. The house is open daily April through October. ☎ 804-733-2400.

**The Farmers Bank of Virginia**, 19 Bollingbrook Street, houses a fine collection of banking memorabilia. Built in 1817, the accommodations on the upper floors served the cashier and his family. The kitchen and laundry at the rear served as home for the bank's slaves. This is one of the oldest bank buildings in America. Visitors can see its heavy safe which was kept in the cashier's office during banking hours and lowered through the floor to the vault below at night. The bank is open daily April through October. ☎ 804-733-2400.

**The Petersburg National Battlefield** is a park covering more than two square miles. It preserves many of the Confederate and Union fortifications, trenches and gun emplacements. The park is open daily and, during the summer months, features daily living history demonstrations. Access for the disabled includes several paved trails and ramps. For an interpretive brochure and tour map, contact the Superintendent, Petersburg National Battlefield Park, PO Box 549, Petersburg, VA 23804, ☎ 804-732-3531, or call the Petersburg Visitor's Center at 800-368-3595.

**Pamplin Historical Park and National Museum of the Civil War Solider**, 6523 Duncan Road, ☎ 877-PAMPLIN, 804-861-2408, or visit www.pamplinpark.org. A new, innovative museum tells the story of the battle. Tudor Hall is a plantation home that was used as a headquarters during the battle. Tours and costumed programs are offered daily.

**Lee's Retreat** is a 26-stop driving tour that traces General Robert E. Lee's retreat from Petersburg to Appomattox where he surrendered. ☎ 800-6-RETREAT.

**Old Towne Petersburg** is a historic district of antique galleries, boutiques, craft shops, restaurants and a diverse mixture of renovated residences and commercial buildings.

**The US Quartermaster Museum**, at Fort Lee, houses a fine collection of uniforms, flags, weapons and equestrian equipment, including General Patton's Jeep, from more than 200 years of military service. Life-sized exhibits pay tribute to the corps that has supplied food, clothing and equipment to America's armed forces. The museum is open daily except Mondays. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. ☎ 804-734-4203.

**Battersea**, Upper Appomattox Street and Battersea Lane, ☎ 804-733-2400, is a circa 1768 Palladian house, built by John Banister, first mayor of Petersburg. The house in under renovation, and is open by appointment.

## Recreation

Petersburg offers more than 400 acres of parkland. In addition, the Appomattox River and Wilcox Lake offer boating and great fishing, the local golf courses are challenging, and there are opportunities for tennis and hiking, as well as several fitness centers and health clubs. Petersburg is also rich in culture and entertainment opportunities ranging from a symphony orchestra and Ar League to eight cinemas. A major arts festival is held each April, and the holiday "Lighting of Petersburg" is a special delight for visitors.

## Dining

Petersburg offers a number of fine restaurants and cafés, with all sorts of traditional American and ethnic cuisine is available. Contact the Petersburg Visitor's Center at ☎ 800-368-3595 for a full list.

**Alexander's**, 101 W. Bank Street, ☎ 804-733-7134, serves Italian and Greek food.

**Annabelle's**, 2733 Park Avenue, ☎ 804-732-0997, serves general American fare daily, with a kid's menu available.

**Canton Restaurant**, 950 S. Sycamore Street, ☎ 804-732-6441.

**Dixie Restaurant**, 250 N. Sycamore Street, ☎ 804-732-5761, serves lunch and dinner with daily specials such as salmon cakes.

**King's Barbecue**, **No. 1**, 3321 W. Washington Street, ☎ 804-733-0975, features Virignia barbecue.

**Leonardo's Deli & Café**, 7 Bollingbrook Street, ☎ 804-863-4830, serves lunch and dinner, with daily specials.

**Mad Italian**, 2545 S. Crater Road, ☎ 804-732-9268, specializes in Italian cuisine.

**Melitta's Gasthaus**, ☎ 804-733-7090, is located in the Flagship Inn, 815 S. Crater Road, and serves German fare.

## Accommodations

Petersburg offers a range of lodging, from large hotels to unique bed & breakfasts. Following is just a sampling. For a complete list, contact the **Petersburg Visitor Center** at ☎ 800-368-3595.

Most establishments offer both handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms, but be sure to ask when making reservations.

## *Hotels & Motels*

**Best Western**, 405 East Washington Street, ☎ 804-733-1776, is a pleasant motor hotel with 124 rooms. Amenities include a restaurant and two cafés, a swimming pool, meeting rooms and valet service. The management provides free airport and rail station transportation and offers a senior citizen discount. $$

**Comfort Inn**, 11974 South Crater Road, ☎ 804-732-2000. 96 rooms. There is a swimming pool, meeting rooms and valet service. Free continental breakfast; senior citizen discount. $-$$

**Days Inn**, 12208 South Crater Road, ☎ 804-733-4400. 155 rooms. Features are a restaurant and café, swimming pool, a playground, an exercise room, meeting rooms and valet service. Pets are allowed in the rooms and there is a senior citizen discount. $$

**Holiday Inn Express**, 12001 S. Crater Road, ☎ 804-732-2000, has 98 rooms, a putting green, pool, sauna and tennis courts. $$

**Howard Johnson**, ☎ 804-732-5950, 530 E. Washington Street, has 160 rooms and an outdoor pool. $$

**Petersburg Regency Hotel and Conference Center**, E. Washington Street & I-95, ☎ 804-526-3000, has 192 rooms and was completely renovated in 1999. There are handicapped and non-smoking rooms, two restaurants, a swimming pool and valet service.

**Quality Inn Steven Kent**, six miles south of Petersburg on I-95 at Exit 45, ☎ 804-733-0600, has 138 rooms. There are handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms, a restaurant and café, a swimming pool, a playground, lighted tennis courts, an exercise room, meeting rooms and valet service. Pets are allowed in the rooms and the management offers a senior citizen discount. $$

**Ramada Inn**, 501 E. Washington Street, ☎ 804-733-0730, has 214 rooms, a pool, restaurant, and pets are allowed. $-$$

## *Bed & Breakfasts / Inns*

**Folly Castle B&B**, 323 W Washington Street, ☎ 804-861-3558, has three suites, all with private baths, in a restored 1763 Greek Revival home. Suites have fireplaces and guest kitchens. Full Southern breakfast served. $$

**The High Street Inn**, 405 High Street, ☎ 804-733-0505, is a well-appointed inn with five guest rooms. Located in the historic district of Old Towne, the Queen Anne mansion offers individually decorated rooms, antique furniture, complimentary afternoon tea and a free continental breakfast. $$-$$$

**La Villa Romaine B&B**, 29 S Market Street, ☎ 804-861-2285, has four rooms, two with private bath, in a pre-Civil War mansion furnished in

French antiques. Full breakfast served, and the management offers chauffeured Rolls Royce limousine tours of the area. $$

## *Transportation*

Petersburg is served by **Richmond International Airport** with direct service to more than 50 cities nationwide and with connections to worldwide destinations through all major US carriers.

Petersburg is also served by **Greyhound-Lines** bus lines and by Amtrak.

## *Information*

The **Petersburg Department of Tourism** is at 15 West Bank Street, Petersburg, VA 23803, ☎ 804-733-2402.

The **Petersburg Visitors Center** is located in the McIlwaine House at 425 Cockade Alley, ☎ 800-368-3595 or 804-733-2400. Another location is at Carson on Interstate 95, ☎ 804-246-2145. For more information, visit the city's Web site at www.petersburg-va.org.

# Richmond

Virginia's capital is like no other place in the world. It's a city of extraordinary contrasts, where Victorian opulence blends smoothly with Colonial simplicity. Grand estates and stylized townhouses, wrought iron and gingerbread, cobblestones, magnolias and boxwoods, and four centuries of history together with a modern skyline create a breathtaking blend of past and present.

Visitors to Richmond encounter Civil War battlefields, world-renowned museums, distinctive architecture, living history reenactments and magnificent gardens. The possibilities for enjoyment are endless. From a sightseeing flight over the city to a riverboat trip or a stroll through the quaint and historic neighborhoods, there's always something interesting to do.

## *History*

From the earliest days when a band of English explorers pushed westward from Jamestown in 1607, it would seem that Richmond has never known a dull moment. For years the settlers fought the Indians for the ground upon which the city now stands. In 1775 Patrick Henry stood in St. John's Church and made a speech that set the colony on the road to

revolution. His stirring request for "Liberty or Death" was the beginning of the birth of a nation. Five years later Richmond was named Virginia's state capital.

Then came the great Civil War and Richmond took on a new role. It's ironic that the city became the capital of the Confederacy because Virginia, as a state, was against secession. But for four years the great city withstood one threat after another. For four years the battle cry of the United States was "On to Richmond." In 1862 General George McClellan landed a vast Union army at Fort Monroe and so began his Peninsula Campaign aimed at the capture of the city. Slowly but surely, one engagement after another, McClellan headed toward the Confederate capital. Yorktown fell to "Little Mac," and Norfolk, and then he was at the gates of the city. The Confederate commanding general, Joseph E. Johnston, was severely wounded and had to be replaced. It was his replacement that saved the city. Robert E. Lee led the Army of Northern Virginia through the devastating battles of The Seven Days, during which Lee and McClellan fought six major battles at a combined cost of more than 36,000 casualties. Costly though the Seven Days were, they ended in victory for Lee. Slowly, but surely, he pushed McClellan back to Harrison's Landing on the banks of the James River where, secure under the protection of the Federal gunboats, McClellan licked his wounds, complained about the lack of support he'd received from his government, and then left the peninsula to fight again at the Battle of Antietam, the bloodiest single day of the Civil War.

Finally, in April, 1865, with General Grant's forces once again poised to take the city, Richmond was evacuated and abandoned. The retreating Confederate soldiers burned the government warehouse and headed west to join Robert E. Lee on his retreat from Petersburg along the road to Appomattox.

Richmond, however, survived. Today it exemplifies the modern South. It's a city very much aware of the past and its culture, but also a city with a view toward to the future. History and industry combine to provide a healthy and growing economy. Tobacco, paper, aluminum, chemicals, textiles, printing, publishing, machinery, tourism and recreation are only a few of the products and attractions that keep Richmond at the forefront as one of the nation's great cities.



## *Sights*

Richmond is known for its unique neighborhoods. Don't miss **Church Hill's** antebellum homes, the museums and historic homes of **Court End,** and **The Fan** district's Monument Avenue, with its many restaurants and turn-of-the-century townhomes. Then, of course, there's **Shockoe Bottom** and **Shockoe Slip**, where history meets eclectic

hang-outs and boutiques housed in former warehouses and factories on cobblestone streets.

**Agecroft Hall**, 4305 Sulgrave Road, was rescued from destruction in England. Antique furniture and 23 acres of landscaped grounds and gardens reflect the style of a glorious age. Agecroft is open Tuesday through Sunday. ☎ 804-353-4241.

**The American Historical Foundation Museum/US Marine Raider Museum**, 1142 West Grace Street, houses the personal artifacts of Jeb Stuart and John Singleton Mosby and the largest collection of military knives and bayonets in the United States. An exhibit chronicles the famous WWII Marine Raiders. The museum is open Monday through Friday. ☎ 804-353-1812.

***Annabel Lee*** offers river cruises with dining and entertainment on the James River. 4400 E. Main Street, ☎ 804-644-5700.

**Beth Ahabah Museum & Archives**, 1109 W. Franklin Street, ☎ 804-353-2668, chronicles Jewish American history. Open Sunday through Thursday.

**The Black History Museum & Cultural Center of Virginia**, at 00 Clay Street, interprets African-American life in Virginia from Jamestown in 1619 until today. The museum houses a collection of more than 5,000 artifacts and documents, limited editions, art and photographs. It is open Tuesday and Thursday through Saturday. ☎ 804-780-9093.

**The Chesterfield Museum Complex and Magnolia Grange** are on Iron Bridge Road between Beach and Lori Roads. The Chesterfield County Museum, Old Courthouse and 19th-century jail make up a complex that interprets the rich history of Chesterfield County. Magnolia Grange, built in the 19th century, is a fully restored plantation house featuring period furnishings and decorative arts. The complex is open Sunday through Friday. ☎ 804-748-1026 for information.

**The Children's Museum of Richmond**, has a new home at 2500 West Broad Street, which triples its size to 42,000 square feet. This is where children can touch, explore and experience through participatory exhibits, classes and workshops that introduce them to the arts, nature and more. The museum is open Tuesday through Sunday daily. ☎ 804-643-KIDO.

**The Henricus Historical Park** is located in Chesterfield County. From Richmond, take Route 10 south to Old Stage Road. Established in 1611 by Sir Thomas Dale, Henricus was the second permanent English settlement in the country. Plans for the park include a visitor center with a theater, an amphitheater, living history exhibits and much more. The park is accessible by a mile-long path along the river. ☎ 804-706-1341.

**The Hollywood Cemetery**, at Cherry and Albemarle Streets, was named for its multitude of holly trees. It is the resting place of more than

18,000 soldiers, Presidents Tyler and Monroe, Confederate President Jefferson Davis and the famed Confederate cavalry general, James Ewell Brown "Jeb" Stuart. ☎ 804-648-8501.

**Holocaust Museum**, 213 Roseneath Road, ☎ 804-257-5400, is a tribute to Holocaust survivors.

**The Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden**, 1800 Lakeside Avenue, features the magnificent displays of the Flagler Perennial Garden, the Minor Garden, the West Island Garden and the Cottage Garden. Visitors can enjoy a meal at the Lora Robins Tea House, shop in the gift shop or eat in the Garden Café in the new E. Claiborne Robins Visitors Center. The Botanical Garden is open daily. ☎ 804-262-9887.

**The John Marshall House**, 818 East Marshall Street, is an outstanding example of Federal architecture and retains many of its original features and a rich collection of Marshall family memorabilia. The house is open Tuesday through Sunday. ☎ 804-648-7998.

**Maymont**, 1700 Hampton Street, is a 100-acre estate with a 33-room Victorian Romanesque Mansion. There is a new Visitor Center and high-tech Nature Center, featuring a 125-foot series of linked aquariums, a 3-D model of the James River, and a 20-foot waterfall. The estate also features formal Italian and Japanese Gardens, antique carriage rides, and native animal habitats. The grounds are open daily. ☎ 804-358-7166.

**The Meadow Farm Museum**, at Mountain and Courtney Roads in Glenn Allen, is an 1860s living historical farm featuring a 19th-century farmhouse, barn, doctor's office, forge and smokehouse. Costumed interpreters perform the daily domestic and agricultural tasks throughout the year. The museum is open Tuesday through Sunday. ☎ 804-501-5520.

**The Money Museum**, in the Federal Reserve Building at 701 East Byrd Street, has exhibits from throughout history. The museum is open Monday through Friday. ☎ 804-697-8000.

**Monument Avenue**, described as "one of the most beautiful streets in America" is a grand boulevard featuring impressive statues honoring tennis star Arthur Ashe and Civil War heroes. This breathtaking parade of impressive monuments and stately slate-roofed mansions features ancient oaks and maples, magnolias, boxwoods and wrought iron detail.

**The Museum and White House of the Confederacy**, 1201 East Clay Street, house the nation's most comprehensive collection of military, political and domestic artifacts and art associated with the period of the Confederacy. The White House, accurately restored to its mid-19th-century appearance, was the executive mansion of Confederate President Jefferson Davis and his family from 1861 until 1865. Now a National Historic Landmark, it is open daily for guided tours. ☎ 804-649-1861.

**The Old Dominion Railroad Museum**, 102 North Hull Street and housed in a restored Railway Express Agency car, features photographs

and artifacts from the area's railroad history. The museum is open on Saturday and Sunday. ☎ 804-233-6237.

**The Edgar Allan Poe Museum**, 1914-16 East Main Street, honors the great American writer with five buildings surrounding an "enchanted garden." The museum houses the largest collection of Poe memorabilia and artifacts in the world. It is open daily. ☎ 804-648-5523.

**The Richmond National Battlefield Park and Visitor Center**, 3215 East Broad Street, present a comprehensive overview of the city's Civil War battlefields. The Chimborazo Visitor Center contains a museum and offers a 12-minute slide presentation and a 30-minute film on life in Richmond during the Civil War. The center also has brochures, handbooks and detailed maps for touring the battlefields. The Center is open daily. ☎ 804-226-1981.

**Riverfront Canal** is 32-acre riverfront development, begun in 1999 and on-going for several more years. Phase One is complete and includes bateaux-style boats rides and a one-mile pedestrian corridor along the George Washington. Future developments will bring restaurants, hotels and shops.

**St. John's Church**, 2401 East Broad Street, is where Patrick Henry made his famous "Liberty or Death" speech. Built in 1714, St. John's is the oldest church in Richmond. Reenactments of the Second Virginia Convention of 1775 are held during the summer. Open daily. ☎ 804-648-5015.

**Science Museum of Virginia**, 2500 West Broad Street and housed in the Old Broad Street Station, contains more than 250 hands-on exhibits on aerospace, astronomy, chemistry, electricity and physics. The museum also houses the Ethyl Universe Planetarium and Space Theatre, an OMNIMAX theater offering fascinating 70mm films and multimedia planetarium shows. The museum is open daily. ☎ 804-367-6552.

**The Three Lakes Nature Center and Aquarium**, 400 Sausiluta Drive, houses a 50,000-gallon freshwater aquarium. The center features wetland exhibits, aquatic animals and plant life, forest animals and more. The center is open daily. ☎ 804-262-4822.

**The Valentine Museum**, 1015 East Clay Street, houses major exhibitions that explore American urban and social history by focusing on Richmond's past. The exhibits examine antebellum race relations, the concept of history and the rise of museums, and costumes and textiles through Virginia's past. The museum also includes Wickham House, a National Historic Landmark and outstanding example of Federal architecture. Built in 1812, the house has lovingly been restored to its former splendor featuring rare neoclassical wall paintings and antique furnishings. The Valentine is open daily. ☎ 804-649-0711.

**The Virginia Aviation Museum**, 5701 Huntsman Road, houses a number of vintage aircraft and aviation exhibits from World War II. The museum is open daily. ☎ 804-236-3622.

**Virginia Civil War Trails**. A series of six comprehensive brochures detail the largest heritage trail system in the nation. To obtain copies, ☎ 800-321-1865.

**Virginia Executive Mansion**, Capitol Square, ☎ 804-371-2642. The official residence of the governor has been restored to its 1830s appearance. Open by appointment only.

**The Virginia Historical Society**, at Kensington and Boulevard, houses seven galleries that exhibit rare Virginia-related treasures and changing exhibits on Virginia history, including collections of photographs, prints and art. The Society is open daily. ☎ 804-358-4901.

**The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts**, 2800 Grove Avenue, houses a number of outstanding collections or art nouveau, art deco, Himalayan, contemporary, impressionist and British sporting art. The museum also houses the largest public display of Faberge Russian Imperial Easter eggs in the world. It is open Tuesday through Sunday. ☎ 804-367-0844.

**Virginia State Capitol**, at 9th and E. Grace Streets, ☎ 804-698-1788, is home of the oldest legislative body in the western hemisphere, and a marble statue of George Washington, the only piece he ever posed for. Guided tours daily.

**The Maggie Walker National Historic Site**, 110½ East Leigh Street, commemorates the life and time of a progressive and talented African-American woman. Despite many adversities, Maggie Walker achieved success in business and finance as the first woman in the United States to found a bank. The house, restored to its 1930s appearance, is furnished with Walker family pieces. The house is open Wednesday through Sunday. ☎ 804-771-2017.

**Tuckahoe Plantation** is the boyhood home of Thomas Jefferson. On Route 6 west of Richmond. Open by appointment, ☎ 804-784-5736.

**Zoo**, **Metro Richmond**, 3800 Beaver Bridge road, ☎ 804-739-5666, is the home of many exotic animals.

## *Entertainment*

As Virginia's capital, Richmond offers a diverse selection of nightlife and entertainment. From elegant dinner theaters to family playhouses, and from classical theater to modern ballet, there's something to suit every taste.

**Amphitheatre on Strawberry Hill**, at the State Fairgrounds on Laburnum Avenue, brings top-name artists to perform at this state-of-the-

art outdoor amphitheater. ☎ 804-228-3213 for schedules and information or ☎ 804-648-8100 (Ticketmaster).

**Barksdale Theatre** is the Richmond area's oldest theatre company, but is now located in a brand new venue in The Shops at Willow Lawn, Broad Street and Staples Mill Road. The company performs a mix of comedies, drama and musicals year-round. ☎ 804-282-2620 for schedules and information.

**The Byrd Theatre**, 2909 West Cary Street in Carytown, is a restored 1838 movie palace that retains the lavish decor of the period, features pre-movie music on a vintage Wurlitzer organ and still shows movies. ☎ 804-353-9911 for schedules and information.

**The Carpenter Center for the Performing Arts**, 600 East Grace Street, presents Broadway productions, concerts and symphony and ballet performances in a spectacular theater. ☎ 804-225-9000.

**The Concert Ballet of Virginia** performs at the Woman's Club auditorium, Bolling Haxall House, 211 E. Franklin Street, ☎ 804-780-1279.

**Mystery Dinner Playhouse**, Best Western Governor's Inn, 9826 Midlothian Turnpike, ☎ 888-471-4802. The audience helps solve the mystery while dining on a four-course meal.

**The Richmond Ballet**. ☎ 804-359-0906 for schedule and information.

**Richmond Landmark Theater**, at Laurel and Main Streets, is an unusual theater that dates to 1927 when the opulent, Near Eastern-style building was erected for the Shriners. The theater presents Broadway productions, concerts and lectures. ☎ 804-780-4213 for schedules and information.

**Richmond Symphony.** ☎ 804-788-1212 for schedule and information.

**Theatre IV**, 114 West Broad Street, is one of Richmond's most honored and creative professional theaters. ☎ 804-344-8040 for schedules and information.

**Theatre Virginia** is at 2800 Grove Street within the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. The theater company produces a wide range of productions from comedies to musical to serious plays. ☎ 804-353-6161 finformation and schedules.

**The Virginia Opera** presents most of its productions at the Carpenter Center for the Performing Arts at 600 East Grace Street. ☎ 804-643-6004 for schedules, tickets and information.

# Recreation

## Spectator Sports

Whether it's a baseball game or a day at the track, the Richmond area has it.

**Coliseum**, **Richmond** hosts major sporting events, concerts and shows. 601 E. Leigh Street, ☎ 804-262-8100.

**Colonial Downs** is Virginia' first pari-mutuel racecourse since the 1800s and features harness and thoroughbred racing, and polo. Exit 214 off I-64, east of Richmond in New Kent County, ☎ 888-4VA-TRACK.

**The Richmond Braves** play AAA professional baseball at The Diamond, 3301 N. Boulevard, ☎ 804-359-4444.

**The Richmond Renegades** play ice hockey at the Richmond Coliseum during the winter months, ☎ 804-643-PUCK.

**Richmond International Raceway**, Laburnum Avenue, Strawberry Hill, ☎ 804-345-RACE, hosts NASCAR racing on a ¾-mile track.

**Richmond Kickers** play soccer at the University of Richmond during the summer, ☎ 804-644-5425.

**The Richmond Rhythm**, part of the new International Basketball League (IBL), plays at home at the Richmond Coliseum, November through April. ☎ 804-343-DUNK.

**Southside Speedway**, Genito Road between Midlothian and Hull Street, ☎ 804-751-LAPS, also hosts NASCAR racing.

**Virginia Motorsports Park**, US 1 in Dunwiddie, offers drag racing, ☎ 804-732-RACE.

## Golf

There are more than 20 public courses in the greater Richmond area. For a free Virginia golfing guide, ☎ 800-93-BACK9. For special golf packages, ☎ 888-RICHMOND.

## Water Sports

**The James River Park System** offers boating, tubing, kayaking and canoe landings, nature trails, and fishing along the river. Boating access is at Huguenot Woods and Pony Pasture Rapids, both off Route 147 on the south side of the James at the western end of Richmond. On the eastern end, access is at Ancarrow's Boat on Maury Street, Exit 73 off I-95. This is also a historic site, a former slave trading dock.

**Richmond Raft Company**, 4400 E. Main Street, ☎ 804-222-7238.

**Adventure Challenge**, 8225 Oxer Road, ☎ 804-276-7600, offers kayaking.

## *Shopping*

**The Shockoe Slip**, on East Cary Street between 12th and 14th Streets in the historic downtown district, offers shopping among Richmond's historic buildings and gaslit cobblestone streets.

**Carytown**, on West Cary Street, provides some eight blocks of shops, stores, restaurants and theaters adjacent to the historic Fan District.

**The 17th Street Market**, on 17th Street, is a farmer's market built on the site of an old Indian trading community with a wealth of seasonal produce and flowers. Open daily, it's been in existence for more than 300 years.

## *Annual Events*

There are hundreds of interesting events held throughout the year in the Richmond area. Listed below are just a few of the major annual events. For a complete calendar, call the Richmond Convention and Visitors Bureau, ☎ 800-370-9004.

**Maymont Flower & Garden Show** is held in February at Richmond Centre, ☎ 804-358-7166.

**The Historic Garden Week in Virginia**, held over a full week in April, features many private houses and gardens of historic interest that open their doors for the public to enjoy. More than 200 homes and gardens participate throughout the state. ☎ 804-644-7776.

**The Virginia Food Festival** in early August showcases Virginia products at the Fair Grounds on Strawberry Hill, ☎ 804-228-3200.

**The Virginia State Fair**, held the last week in September, includes animal and 4-H contests, music and entertainment, a horse show and a carnival. ☎ 804-228-3200.

**The Grand Illumination and James River Boat Parade** are held in December.

## *Dining*

There are hundreds of excellent restaurants, cafés and fast food eateries in and around Richmond. The sampling listed here is only a small representation, with at least one restaurant from each neighborhood of the city. Half the fun of a visit to Virginia's capital is to hunt the historic cobblestone streets in search of the dining experience with a difference. For a

complete listing, call the Richmond Convention and Visitors Bureau, ☎ 800-370-9004.

**Awful Arthur's Seafood Co.**, 101 North 18th Street, ☎ 804-643-1700, has a raw bar, daily specials and theme nights.

**Cross Roads Restaurant & Lounge**, 217 West Clay Street, ☎ 804-643-2060, offers French-Cajun cuisine and Deep Southern, New Orleans jazz and blues.

**The Fan Station**, 2329 West Main Street, ☎ 804-213-0978, offers upscale regional cuisine.

**Farouk's House of India**, 3033 West Cary Street, ☎ 804-355-0378, is open for lunch and dinner, takes reservations and offers an interesting and comprehensive menu at reasonable prices. Specialties of the house include curries and tandoori.

**The Frog and the Redneck**, 1423 East Cary Street, ☎ 804-648-3764, serves modern American regional cuisine. The award-winning restaurant uses plenty of local products on its menu.

**The Halfway House**, 10301 Jefferson Davis Highway about 12 miles south on the way to Petersburg, ☎ 804-275-1760, is open for lunch and dinner, takes reservations and offers good American fare at reasonable prices. Specialties of the house include lobster, Colonial chicken and beef pies. The restaurant is in a Colonial manor house that was a stagecoach stop until the late 19th century. George Washington, Lafayette, Patrick Henry and Thomas Jefferson are only a few of the notables that stopped by.

**Harrison's Hideaway Café**, 1600 Monument Avenue, ☎ 804-342-6000, located underground below the Stuart Court Building, it's the only restaurant on Monument Avenue. Known for pizzas named after Monument Avenue's most famous residents.

**Havana '59**, 16 North 17th Street, ☎ 804-649-2822, features Cuban cuisine in a recreated 1950s Havana, complete with cigar-smoking and a dance floor.

**La Petite France**, 2912 Maywill Street, ☎ 804-353-8729, is open for lunch and dinner, takes reservations and offers a wonderful French menu at very reasonable prices. Specialties of the house include seafood and veal.

**Linden Row Inn**, 100 East Franklin Street, ☎ 804-738-7000, is Southern cuisine at its best. Patio dining is available at this antebellum landmark.

**Mr. Patrick Henry's Inn**, 2300 East Broad Street, ☎ 804-644-1322, offers continental fare in an 1850s row house.

**Poe's Pub**, 2706 East Main Street, ☎ 804-648-2120, has an Irish pub atmosphere, but specializes in catfish and ribs.

**O'Toole's**, 4800 Forest Hill Avenue, ☎ 804-233-1781, is open for lunch and dinner and offers good wholesome food in an Irish pub atmosphere. The prices are extremely reasonable, and the restaurant specializes in seafood, steak and barbecued dishes.

**The Peking Pavilion**, 1302 East Cary Street, ☎ 804-649-8888, is open for lunch and dinner, takes reservations and offers a comprehensive Chinese menu at reasonable prices. Specialties of the house include Peking duck, seafood and chicken.

**Sam Miller's Warehouse**, 1210 East Cary Street, ☎ 804-644-5465, is open for lunch and dinner, takes reservations and offers great American food at reasonable prices. Specialties of the house include seafood, lobster and prime Western beef.

**The Tanglewood Ordinary**, 2210 River Road West, ☎ 804-784-7011, is open for dinner, takes reservations and offers traditional Southern fare at prices that are hard to beat. Specialties of the house include fried chicken, black-eyed peas and ham. The restaurant offers casual family dining in a log cabin.

**The Tobacco Company**, 1201 Cary Street, ☎ 804-782-9431, is open for lunch and dinner, takes reservations and offers good American cooking at prices that start low and go on up. Specialties of the house include prime rib, fresh fish and home baking. The restaurant is in an old tobacco warehouse with an atrium and an antique cage elevator.

## *Accommodations*

Most establishments offer both handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms, but be sure to ask when making reservations.

### *Hotels & Motels*

**The Berkeley Hotel**, 1200 East Cary Street, ☎ 804-780-1300, is a European-style hotel with 55 rooms, some handicapped-accessible and some non-smoking. The management offers pool privileges, coffee in the guest rooms, health club privileges, free valet parking and free airport and local transportation. There is a senior citizen discount. $$$

**Best Western Airport Inn**, 5700 Williamsburg Road, ☎ 804-222-2780, has 122 units, including non-smoking rooms. Amenities include a pool, meeting rooms and free airport transportation. Senior discount. $-$$

**Courtyard by Marriott**, 6400 West Broad Street, ☎ 804-282-1881, has 145 rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. There is a full-service restaurant and café, a pool with poolside service, cable TV, meeting rooms and an exercise room. Discount for seniors. $$$

**Crowne Plaza Richmond**, 555 East Canal Street, ☎ 804-788-7091, is a large luxury hotel with 300 rooms including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. There is a full-service restaurant, bar and café, indoor pool, convention facilities, a concierge, a gift shop, exercise room and several meeting rooms. Free transportation to the airport and railroad station. Senior citizen discount. $$$

**Days Inn**, 2100 Dickens Road, ☎ 804-282-3300, has 180 rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. There is a swimming pool, meeting room and playground. Free continental breakfast and senior citizen discount. $$

**Embassy Suites**, 2925 Emerywood Parkway, ☎ 804-672-8585, has 226 suites, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking units. Facilities include a swimming pool, an exercise room, a gift shop and several meeting rooms. Senior citizen discount. $$$

**Hilton Airport**, 5501 Eubank Road, ☎ 804-226-6400, has 160 rooms, most of them suites, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. There is a full-service restaurant, a swimming pool with poolside service, meeting rooms and a café. Free airport transportation; discount for seniors. $$-$$$

**Holiday Inn Airport**, 5203 Williamsburg Road, ☎ 804-222-6450, is a large hotel with 230 rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. There is a full-service restaurant, bar and café, a swimming pool with a lifeguard on duty and several meeting rooms. Free airport transportation; senior citizen discount. $$$

**Holiday Inn Bells Road**, 4303 Commerce Road, ☎ 804-275-7891, has 166 rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. They have a full-service restaurant, bar and café, a swimming pool and several meeting rooms. Senior citizen discount. $$

**Hyatt Richmond**, 6624 W. Broad Street, ☎ 804-285-1234, is a large luxury hotel with 372 rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. You will find a full-service restaurant, bar and café, a swimming pool with poolside service, a playground, lighted tennis courts, a gift shop an exercise room and several meeting rooms. There's also a luxury level with a private lounge and club where guests are provided with complimentary continental breakfast, refreshments and newspapers. Senior discount. $$$

**The Jefferson**, Franklin and Adams Streets, ☎ 804-788-8000, is a large, luxurious hotel with 275 rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. There is a full-service restaurant, bar and café and several meeting rooms. The hotel also has a shopping arcade, tennis and golf privileges and a famous staircase and 70-foot rotunda. New in 2000 is an indoor swimming pool and a grand entrance. Senior citizen discount. $$$

**Linden Row Inn**, 100 E. Franklin Street, ☎ 804-783-7000, has 70 rooms in 1840 Greek Revival townhouses. Courtyard gardens and a restaurant. $$$

**The Omni**, 100 South 12th Street, ☎ 804-344-7000, is a large luxury hotel with more than 360 units, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. Facilities offered by the hotel include a full-service restaurant, bar and café, a swimming pool with poolside service, convention facilities, a concierge, a shopping arcade and an exercise room and several meeting rooms. There's also a luxury level with a private lounge and club where guests are provided with a complimentary continental breakfast, refreshments and newspapers. $$$

**Quality Inn West End**, 8008 West Broad Street, ☎ 804-346-0000, is a fairly large hotel with 193 rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. Facilities include a swimming pool and several meeting rooms. A complimentary continental breakfast is offered. Senior discount. $$

**Ramada Inn West**, 1500 Parham Road, ☎ 804-285-9061, has 91 rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. There is a restaurant, a swimming pool and several meeting rooms. A senior citizen discount is available. $$

**Richmond Marriott**, 500 East Broad Street, ☎ 804-643-3400, is a large luxury hotel with 400 rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. The hotel offers a full-service restaurant, bar and café, a swimming pool with poolside service and a lifeguard on duty, convention facilities and an exercise room. There's also a luxury level with a private lounge, in-room movies, and guests are provided with a complimentary continental breakfast, refreshments and newspapers. Senior citizen discount. $$$

**Wyndham Garden Hotel**, 4700 South Laburnum Avenue, ☎ 804-226-4300, has 151 rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. There is a full-service restaurant, an indoor swimming pool, meeting rooms, an exercise room a gift shop, a bar and a café. Free airport transportation; senior discount. $$

## *Bed & Breakfasts / Inns*

**Emmanuel Hutzler House**, 2036 Monument Avenue, ☎ 804-353-6900, offers four guest rooms, all with private bath, in a large 1914 home featuring stunning architectural details, leaded glass windows, mahogany paneling, and antiques and oriental rugs throughout. $$$

**Mr. Patrick Henry's Inn**, 2300-02 E. Broad Street, ☎ 804-644-1322, is an 1850s converted row house. There are three suites, all with private bath. Continental breakfast included. Restaurant offers lunch and dinner. Patio in rear. $$$

**The Virginia Cliffe Inn**, 2900 Mountain Road, Glen Allen, ☎ 804-266-1661 or toll-free 877-254-3346. There are three rooms, a suite and a cottage available, all with private bath. Reproduction of a famous historic home sits on six acres with gardens, a pond and waterfall. $$-$$$

**William Catlin House**, 2304 E. Broad Street, ☎ 804-780-3746, is a 1845 Greek Revival home with five guest rooms, three with private bath. Full breakfast served. $$

**West-Bocock House**, 1107 Grove Avenue, ☎ 804-358-6174, has three guest rooms, all with private bath. This 1871 historic home offers French linens, fresh flowers and a full breakfast at reasonable rates. $$

## *Transportation*

**Richmond International Airport** has more than 150 flights daily. Airline service is provided by most major US carriers, and by several regional airlines. The airport is easily accessed via Intestates 95, 64 and 295.

For airport transportation, call **Groome Transportation** (☎ 804-222-7222); they serve all the major hotels in the area.

**The Greyhound Lines Inc.** depot is minutes away from downtown at 2910 North Boulevard. ☎ 800-231-2222 for schedules and information.

**Amtrak** provides eight trains daily that link with Washington DC and the northeast corridor. From Washington travelers can easily connect with trains going further north, west to San Francisco and south to Florida.

Local transportation is provided by a free street **trolley service** that covers an extensive area, with two routes passing most of the city's hotels, restaurants and nightlife. Local bus service is provided by the **Greater Richmond Transit Company**.

Additional local transportation is provided by a number of taxi companies. Cab stands are at most major hotels, the airport, Amtrak and Greyhound/Lines terminals.

## *Information*

For a free visitor's guide or assistance with hotel reservations, contact **The Richmond Convention and Visitors Bureau**, ☎ 800-370-9004 or 804-782-2777 (information), 888-RICHMOND (hotel reservations only), 550 East Marshall Street, Richmond, VA 23219. Visit their Web site at www.richmondva.org.

The main **Visitor Center** is at Exit 78 of Interstate 95/64 at 1710 Robin Hood Road, ☎ 804-358-5511. Another Visitor Center is located at Rich-

mond International Airport, Exit 197 of Interstate 64, ☎ 804-236-3260. There is a **Welcome Center** on the Virginia State Capitol grounds, ☎ 804-648-3146.

# South Hill & Mecklenburg County

If it's the unspoiled outdoors you enjoy, then South Hill is the place for you. There's no better spot for a getaway or vacation, whether it's just for an afternoon's fishing or a couple of weeks camping.

South Hill is in Mecklenburg County in Central Virginia and borders the North Carolina state line. The town is an outdoor lover's paradise surrounded by pine forests and the gently rolling hills of southern Virginia.

## *History*

South Hill traces its history back to the early 19th century. It grew out of two much older settlements. The site of the present town was called Ridgefork, which was a gathering place for farmers and merchants from around the area. It was a small community but boasted a general store, a race track and a popular tavern named for Mr. Henry Wilson, the proprietor during the 1830s and early 1840s.

To the north of Ridgefork was a second, smaller community with a church, an academy and a post office which eventually became a town in 1871 and was called Southhill. The construction of the Boydton-Petersburg Plank Road through Ridgefork brought change to the area. The settlement of Southhill relocated and the newly formed town was renamed.

In 1889, the railroad came through the area and South Hill became an important terminal on the line between Danville and Norfolk. During those early years South Hill's was an agrarian economy, with tobacco the main crop.

Around the time of the railroad's arrival in South Hill, the area was surveyed by representatives of the Atlantic and Danville Railroad. They purchased some 56 acres of land around the depot and thus the town plan took on a rather unusual look. The town changed from a circle configuration to the present one in 1967.

From a small settlement of a store and one or two houses, the community grew into a town large enough to become incorporated in 1901. At that time, tobacco warehouses were established and, during its first year, more than 1.6 million pounds of tobacco were sold. From that point the tobacco industry in South Hill expanded so rapidly that the South Hill Tobacco Board of Trade was established in 1903 to provide regulation and

management of the burgeoning industry. Today, South Hill remains one of the largest tobacco markets in Virginia.

## *Sights*

Touring the South Hill area can take you to some interesting attractions. There are sights to interest all ages. These include:

**The Virginia S. Evans Doll Museum** at the South Hill Chamber of Commerce, 201 South Mecklenburg Avenue, South Hill, ☎ 804-447-4547. The museum features a collection of more than 500 dolls, some of which date from the 1860s. You can see Alexander dolls, Kewpie dolls of the 1920s, German bisque dolls made by the Shoemau-Hoffmeister Co., and Campbell Soup kids from the 1950s. Open daily 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.

**The South Hill Model Railroad Museum** is also in the South Hill Chamber of Commerce building, a renovated railroad depot. This museum features one of the largest displays of model trains in Virginia. Here you will find the "Wiggle Bump & Agony Railroad," a four train layout, and the museum scale "Atlantic & Danville Railroad." Open daily 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. ☎ 804-447-4547.

**The Prestwould Plantation**, just outside Clarksville on Highway 58, ☎ 804-374-8672, is a stately mansion built during the years 1790-1795 by Sir Peyton Skipwith, an American baronet. The home is a fine combination of Federal and Georgian-style architecture with carefully preserved outbuildings and gardens. Prestwood is listed as a Virginia Historic Landmark and is on the National Register of Historic Places. It is open daily mid-April through October.

**The MacCallum More Museum and Gardens**, 603 Hudgins Street, ☎ 804-372-0502, is owned by the Fine Arts Museum of Southern Virginia. Here, on five acres of formal gardens, you can see more than 8,000 boxwoods plus an array of azaleas, dogwoods and many other flowering plants and trees. The Colonial-style home was built in 1929 by Edward Hudgins, the Chief Justice of the Virginia Supreme Court. The museum houses Indian artifacts collected locally dating from 9500 B.C., as well as revolving arts displays. Open Sunday through Friday.

**The Boyd Tavern**, built in 1790, was an important stop for travelers in the 18th and 19th centuries, near the intersection of Madison and Washington Streets. The beautiful white frame Colonial building's first proprietor was one Alexander Boyd the Elder. Originally it contained a store and guest rooms as well as the tavern. Additions were made sometime around 1860 and again in 1900, finally reaching its present total of 35 rooms. The tavern is a Virginia Historic Landmark and is listed on the National Register Historic places, and is open by appointment. ☎ 804-738-6344.

**Tobacco Warehouse and Farm Tours**. Tobacco farms have played an important role in the history of South Hill and the tobacco industry. For a special Tour of Area Tobacco Farms and the tobacco market during the season, contact the South Hill Chamber of Commerce, 201 South Mecklenburg Avenue, South Hill, ☎ 800-524-4347.

**Tobacco Farm Life Museum of Virginia**, 306 W. Main Street, South Hill, ☎ 804-447-2551, focuses on farm life on Virginia tobacco farms during the early 1900s. There are displays on the planting, harvesting and curing of tobacco. Open Thursday through Saturday.

## *Shopping*

The shopping opportunities in South Hill and Mecklenburg County are many and varied. There are several factory outlets specializing in sportswear, men's clothing and candy. There are also a variety of specialty shops for you to browse through in South Hill. These include antique stores, gift shops, stores where you can purchase stoneware and glassware, handmade quilts and wicker furniture and a whole range of arts, crafts and collectibles.

## *Recreation*

Much of life in the region focuses on the natural beauty of two large lakes: Buggs Island Lake – also known as Kerr Dam and Reservoir – and Lake Gaston. South Hill is located adjacent to **Buggs Island Lake**, a 50,000-acre lake with more than 800 miles of shoreline; it's the largest lake in Virginia and one of the most scenic in the South.

**Lake Gaston**, also near South Hill, is a 20,000-acre lake with more than 350 miles of shoreline, ☎ 800-524-4347.

Both lakes can be explored by sailboat or speedboat, with a fishing pole or by hiking the many miles of scenic shoreline.

The **Kerr Reservoir** is a 50,000-acre lake planned and developed by the Army Corps of Engineers. Tours of the dam are available. Buggs Island, for which the lake is named, is a 69-acre island downstream from the dam, ☎ 800-524-4347.

Fishermen on the two lakes report fine catches of largemouth bass, striped bass, white bass, crappie and walleye.

For hunters South Hill is a year-round destination. Fine hunting can be found in the fields and woods where deer, duck, quail and wild turkey are plentiful.

**Occoneechee State Park**, 1192 Occoneechee Park Road, Clarksville, ☎ 804-374-2210, is located by the Kerr Reservoir on 900 acres of woodlands and fields. It is adjacent to a 2,000-acre wildlife management area.

There is a visitor center where you can learn about the fascinating Occoneechee people. Hiking, fishing, boating and camping are available. There is also a historic plantation garden to walk through. Open daily Memorial Day through Labor Day.

**The Lake Gaston Fishing Lodge**, 379 Delbridge Road, Gasburg, ☎ 804-577-3007, offers lodging.

## *Annual Events*

There's always something going on in South Hill. Throughout the year the city plays host to many activities and events for sportsmen, crafts enthusiasts and food lovers.

**The Annual Beef Festival**, held during May at a different location each year, is a popular one-day event that features beef carefully prepared by members of the local Ruritan Club and offers an opportunity to sample beef cooked every way imaginable from short ribs to barbecue to country steak.

**The Annual Occoneechee State Park Pow Wow and Native American Heritage Festival**, the second weekend in May, brings descendants of the original Occoneechee people to their ancestral homelands for a festival of dancing, drumming, singing and demonstrations of crafts and primitive weapons. The park is located 1½ miles east of Clarksville on Route 58. ☎ 804-374-2210.

**The Bassmaster Virginia Invitational Championship**, hosted by South Hill since 1989 at Buggs Island Lake, is one of the nation's classic fishing tournaments. ☎ 800-5 BIG FISH.

**The Arts & Crafts Festival**, held over the third weekend in November, brings craftspeople from throughout the East to present their wares. Tourists come from miles around to join in the event which, for many, marks the beginning of the Christmas season.

**The Shrimp Festival**, held during the last week of November, offers excellent seafood at an all-you-can-eat event organized by the local Shrine Club.

**Field Trials** for several breeds of dogs are held at the scenic Dick Cross Wildlife Management Area from August to May. For more information, contact the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries at ☎ 804-367-1000.

## *Dining*

**Brian's Steak House**, 625 E. Atlantic Street, South Hill, ☎ 804-447-3169, this family-oriented restaurant serves breakfast, lunch and dinner.

The prime rib sandwich is a specialty. Open from 6 a.m. until 10 p.m. every day.

**Daysey Jean's Lake Country Inn & Tavern**, 100 Meredith Street, Lawrenceville, ☎ 804-848-9018. Lunch Monday through Friday features an all-you-can-eat buffet. Dinner specialties are steaks and seafood, Tuesday through Saturday.

**Kahill's Restaurant**, Highway 1 North, South Hill, ☎ 804-447-6941. Offers fine dining in a casual atmosphere. The extensive menu has everything from lamb, venison and quail to chicken and seafood.

## *Accommodations*

Most establishments offer both handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms, but be sure to ask when making reservations.

### *Hotels & Motels*

**Best Western South Hill**, at the junction of Interstate 85 and US 58 East, ☎ 804-447-3123, has 151 guest rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. There is a full-service restaurant and a café, a heated pool, meeting rooms valet service and free transportation, along with a senior citizen discount. $$

**Econo Lodge**, 623 Atlantic Street, ☎ 804-447-7116, has 53 guest rooms, a pool, and allows pets. Restaurant nearby. $

**Hampton Inn**, 200 Thompson Road, ☎ 804-447-4600, has 55 rooms, with four whirlpool suites. Handicapped-accessible rooms available. There is a fitness room, a pool and a restaurant nearby. $$

**Holiday Inn Express**, 101 Thompson Street, ☎ 804-955-2777, has 55 rooms, a pool, fitness room and handicapped-accessible rooms. $$

### *Camping*

With all the natural beauty of the lakes and their surroundings, it comes as no surprise that the South Hill area is a popular camping destination. The area offers a variety of parks and campgrounds, boat launching facilities and marinas. Picnicking, swimming, hiking, bird and nature watching, along with the range of activities associated with the campgrounds, make South Hill a place where the whole family can have fun outdoors.

**The John H. Kerr Dam & Reservoir** has 14 different campgrounds on and around the reservoir. Most offer all the services you might expect at major campgrounds. Facilities include flush toilets, hot showers, sewage disposal, water and electric hookups, swimming beaches and picnic areas. For a map and full list of campgrounds, ☎ 804-738-6662 or toll-free 877-444-6777 (reservations).

**Americamps on Lake Gaston** is a 140-acre camping facility nestled in the woods on the north shore of the lake. There are 473 camp sites with outdoor fireplaces, picnic tables, and water, electric and sewer hookups. There's also a fully-stocked convenience store, a swimming pool, an 18-hole miniature golf course, a pavilion with indoor games and pool tables, convenient bathhouses where campers can enjoy a hot shower, boat launching ramps and free dumping stations. For more information, contact Lake Gaston Americamps, Route 2, Box 134, Bracy, VA 23919, ☎ 804-636-2668.

## *Transportation*

South Hill is served by the international **airports** at **Richmond** and **Raleigh**. Both airports are 75 miles from South Hill.

**Greyhound Lines Inc.** serves the city.

South Hill has an excellent network of highways consisting of Interstate 85, US Highways 58 and 1 and State Route 47.

## *Information*

For information about the South Hill area, contact the **South Hill Chamber of Commerce**, 201 South Mecklenburg Avenue, South Hill, VA 23970, ☎ 800-524-4347.

# *Shenandoah Valley*

## Front Royal & Warren County

Originally named Hell Town for all the wild and uproarious goings-on in the area, Front Royal, set in the magnificent Shenandoah Valley, still attracts thousands of visitors every year. The area's beauty, combined with local lore and legend, continue to delight those who choose to visit. In addition to the scenic mountains, the valley and the fabled Shenandoah River, there are many local attractions, historic sites, golf courses and outdoor recreational opportunities. These include boating and fishing, hiking the Appalachian Trail and exploring Shenandoah National Park. Front Royal maintains 10 parks, playgrounds and a youth center as part of its own city park system.

Renowned for its hospitality since Colonial days, Front Royal offers a wide variety of accommodations and restaurants.

Those who enjoy shopping will find the town much to their liking. There are a large number of antique shops and the newly renovated downtown district is an attraction in its own right. Gift shops and crafts stores offer a variety of selected items, including collectibles, area crafts and local produce, such as Virginia hams, mountain-grown apples and apple products.

### *Sights*

The **Warren Rifles Confederate Museum**, 95 Chester Street, houses a fine collection of relics and records of the Civil War. Exhibits include arms, battle flags, uniforms and accouterments, cavalry equipment, rare documents and pictures, personal and domestic items and memorabilia of Belle Boyd, Mosby's Rangers, Generals Jackson, Lee, Early, Longstreet, Turner Ashby and many more. The museum is open daily, April 15 through October 31, and by appointment from November through April 14. ☎ 540-636-6982.

The **Belle Boyd Cottage**, 101 Chester Street, behind Ivy Lodge and next door to the Warren Rifles Confederate Museum, has served as a tavern, a private residence, military headquarters and a storeroom. During the Civil War the cottage was the home of Belle Boyd's aunt and uncle. Belle stayed in the cottage and used the opportunity to spy on Federal troops occupying the town. The old cottage has been restored as a living history museum depicting Warren County at the time of the Civil War. The cottage is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. ☎ 540-636-1446.

**Prospect Hill Cemetery**, on Prospect Street in Front Royal, is steeped in Civil War history. At the cemetery entrance stands a monument to Mosby's Rangers, commemorating the lives of seven men led by the daring confederate raider, John S. Mosby. The men were executed at the behest of Union General Ulysses S. Grant. At the top of Prospect Hill the remains of 276 soldiers are buried, representing each of the 13 Confederate states. Stonewall Jackson directed his troops from this spot during the Battle of Front Royal in May 1862.

**Skyline Caverns**, one mile south of the city on US 340, features rare rock formations, a 37-foot waterfall with light and sound presentations and a miniature train that provides trips through the surrounding wooded area. Cave tours start every few minutes and the caverns are open daily from early March through mid-November. ☎ 800-296-4545.

The **Raymond R. Guest Shenandoah River State Park**, on US 340 eight miles south of Front Royal, preserves six miles of river frontage on the Shenandoah River. There are 1,600 acres of camping, picnicking, hiking and boating here, as well as hiking trails. Admission charged. ☎ 540-622-6840.

**Shenandoah National Park**. Front Royal, so they say, is where this magnificent national park system really begins. The great park is one of the few places that can still boast the unique combination of a protected mountain area plus inviting lodging and recreational amenities.

The 195,000-acre park is a hiker's paradise with many trails intersecting Skyline Drive. These trails vary in length from short hikes to trips that require 12 hours or more to complete. Skyline Drive, dedicated by President Franklin Roosevelt in 1939, takes in more than 100 miles of breathtaking mountain-top scenery from Afton in the south to Front Royal in the north along the crest of the Blue Ridge.

Accommodations in the Shenandoah National Park include the **Skyland Lodge**, ☎ 800-999-4714; **Big Meadows Lodge**, ☎ 800-999-4714; and **Lewis Mountain**, ☎ 800-999-4714.

**Oasis Winery**, 14141 Hume Road in the nearby town of Hume, boasts world-renowned champagne and sparkling wines, set amid breathtaking views of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Oasis offers wine tastings and food in its café, picnic areas, and outdoor heated patio. Groups and individuals are welcome, and Oasis can plan special events around family reunions, receptions, retreats and holidays. ☎ 800-304-7656 or 540-635-7627.

## *Recreation*

### *Water Activities*

**Front Royal Canoe Co.**, on Route 340, three miles past Skyline Drive, ☎ 540-635-5440 or 800-270-8808, runs float trips down the meanders of

the Shenandoah River in kayaks, rafts or tubes. Bring the pet and fishing pole for a memorable ride. Open March 15 to Nov. 15. www.frcanoe.com.

**Shenandoah River Trips**, on Indian Hollow Road (Route 613) in Bentonville, ☎ 540-635-5050 or 800 RAPIDS-1, is 10 minutes from downtown Front Royal on a remote section of the South Fork of the Shenandoah River. This small outfitter will put you on the renowned river to float, fish or run beginner rapids. They offer discounted mid-week rates. www.shenandoah.com.

**Downriver Canoe Company**, Indian Hollow Road (Route 613) in Bentonville, ☎ 800-338-1963, runs kayak and canoe trips on the Shenandoah River. A 10-minute drive from downtown Front Royal, Downriver offers both day trips or overnight river packages. www.downriver.com.

## *Golf*

**Shenandoah Valley Golf Club**, on Route 658, six miles north of I-66 at Exit 6, has 27 holes of championship golf set amid panoramic mountain views. The **Fairview House** on site offers bed-and-breakfast and golf packages. Conference rooms are available for meetings and there are banquet halls for receptions and other special events. ☎ 540-636-GOLF.

**Bowling Green Country Club**, on Bowling Green Road (Route 683) north of Front Royal, ☎ 540-635-2883 (South Club House) or 540-635-2024 (North Club House), features two 18-hole courses open to the public.

**Front Royal Country Club**, on Country Club Road off Rtes. 340 and 522, ☎ 540-636-9061, offers a small nine-hole public golf course.

**Jackson's Chase at Pine Hills**, on Route 255 off of Ritenour Hollow Road (Route 609) north of Front Royal, ☎ 540-635-7814, has an 18-hole course open to the public.

## *Other Activities*

**Blue Ridge Hot Air Balloons**, 552 Milldale Hollow Road, ☎ 540-622-6325 or 877-RIDE-AIR, takes you high above the Blue Ridge Mountains and Shenandoah Valley for a bird's-eye view of the farms, apple orchards and small hamlets that hold so much of this region's charm. Pilot Paul Waddell flies all year and caters to families, groups and businesses. Guests can help with flight preparations and the trip ends with a toast of champagne or sparkling cider.

**Town of Front Royal-Happy Creek Trail** is for hikers and bicyclists. It begins on Main Street at the Happy Creek Bridge and runs a quarter-mile along Happy Creek.

## Shopping

**Royal Oak Bookshop**, 207 S. Royal Avenue, ☎ 540-635-7070, stocks thousands of books, including used, collectibles and new titles.

**Heaven Sent Bible**, **Book & Gift Shoppe**, 11 East 2nd Street, ☎ 540-622-2060, is tucked on a side street in Front Royal's historic district. The shop's tearoom serves up an invigorating cup of tea. Visit www.heavensent.org. for more information.

**The Middle of Main Antique Emporium**, 213 E. Main Street, ☎ 540-636-4767, is one of several antique shops clustered on Main Street in Front Royal's restored historical district.

**Water Street Antiques & Reproductions**, 118 Water Street, ☎ 540-635-7419, is a small shop with a large selection of antiques.

**On The Wall**, 477-G South Street, ☎ 540-636-3485, displays and sells Civil War art as well as original pieces.

The **Blue Ridge Arts Council**, 301 E. Main Street, ☎ 540-635-9909, displays and sells the work of regional and Virginia artists.

**Beside The Vine**, 915A N. Royal Avenue, ☎ 540-636-8920, is a gift shop located in Front Royal's restored historical district.

**The Old Rockland Schoolhouse**, at the intersection of Fairground and Rockland roads, ☎ 540-635-9059, occupies an old schoolhouse on the outskirts of Front Royal.

## Annual Events

The **Virginia Mushroom & Wine Festival** takes place the third Saturday of May. This is Front Royal's signature event, with crafters, wineries, art and mushroom vendors cramming the downtown historic district for a lively weekend. ☎ 800-338-2576.

**Blue Ridge Octoberfest** is held every September. ☎ 540-635-3185 or 800-338-2576.

The **Fireman's Carnival** is held in July. ☎ 540-636-2540.

The **Warren County Fair** runs the first week of August. ☎ 540-635-5827.

**Riverfest** makes education fun by mixing ecology and festival. The focus is the Shenandoah River, a massive, winding tributary of the Potomac River. There is food, regional art and wine. Held the third Saturday in June. ☎ 540-636-4948.

# Dining

**The Apple House**, on Route 55 in Linden, east of Front Royal, ☎ 540-636-6329, specializes in Virginia food and wine, country cooking, doughnuts and barbecue. Open seven days a week. Catering services are provided and there is an on-site gift shop.

**J's Gourmet**, 206 S. Royal Avenue, ☎ 540-636-4259, offers a nice selection of custom-made sandwiches, salads and breads and a wide variety of gourmet cooking food and tools.

The **14th Street Bistro**, 101 W. 14th Street, ☎ 888-636-8414, is a new restaurant offering fine dining and lunch daily. The gourmet menu features salmon, prime rib, chicken and seafood. A meeting room can fit 30 people and reservations are recommended.

**Flint Hill Public House**, on Route 522 in the town of **Flint Hill**, ☎ 540-675-1700, is open for lunch and dinner, serving classic Virginia fare from a former public school house that dates back to the 1900s.

**Villa Giuseppe Italian Restaurant**, 865 John Marshall Highway, ☎ 540-636-8999, serves good Italian food for lunch and dinner.

**Grapevine Restaurant**, 915 N. Royal Avenue, ☎ 540-635-6615, serves lunch and dinner seven days a week. The menu features great seafood, steaks and pasta in a fine restaurant setting. There is usually some kind of entertainment as well.

# Accommodations

Most establishments offer both handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms, but be sure to ask when making reservations.

## Hotels & Motels

**Bluemont Inn**, on Route 340, 522 and 55, ☎ 540-635-9447 or 800-461-1720, has 28 guest rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. Pets are welcome and free coffee is served each morning. $$

**Budget Inn Front Royal**, two miles south of Front Royal on Route 340, 522 and 55, ☎ 540-635-2196 or 800-766-6748, is a small motel with 21 guest rooms, some for non-smokers. Children stay for free, and rooms with refrigerators and direct-dial phones are available. Pets are welcome. $-$$

**Front Royal Motel**, on Route 340, 522 and 55, ☎ 540-635-4114, is within walking distance of some fine restaurants. Rooms are on the ground floor and staff will provide your wake-up call in the morning. Pets are welcome. $-$$

**Pioneer Motel**, 541 S. Royal Street, near the north entrance to Skyline Drive, ☎ 540-635-4784, has 28 rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. Next door are a swimming pool, picnic area and restaurants.

**The Quality Inn-Skyline Drive**, at the end of Main Street, ☎ 540-635-3161, is a well-appointed motel with more than 100 rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking guest rooms. The inn has a full-service restaurant, café, bar, several meeting rooms and swimming pool. Senior citizen discount. $$

**Relax Inn – Front Royal**, 1801 Shenandoah Avenue, ☎ 540-635-4101, is a small motel with 20 guest rooms and a swimming pool. There's also a picnic area, a playground and a café nearby. Children stay for free and pets are welcome. $-$$

**Super 8 Motel**, 11 South Street, ☎ 540-636-4888, has 63 rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking guest rooms. Complimentary coffee and donuts are offered in the morning. $-$$

## *Bed & Breakfasts / Inns*

**Chester House**, set in Front Royal's historic district at 43 Chester Street, ☎ 540-635-3937, provides bed-and-breakfast hospitality in a 1905 Georgian Mansion or a private cottage for two. Antiques and artwork set an elegant tone, and fieldstone fireplaces keep guests cozy in the evenings. $$-$$$

**Killahevlin** sits atop a hill at 1401 N. Royal Avenue, ☎ 540-636-7335, and will pamper you with Irish-style warmth and hospitality in a historic Edwardian mansion. Guest rooms come with whirlpool baths, fireplaces and mountain views. Round out your evening at a private Irish Pub on premises. $$$

At the **Woodward House**, 413 S. Royal Avenue, ☎ 540-635-7010, innkeepers Joan and Bob Kaye continue a hostelry tradition dating back to the 1930s in a historic Colonial-era home. There are three guest rooms and five guest suites, each with a private bath. Children are welcome with advance notice. A full breakfast is included with the room rate. Visit www.acountryhome.com for more information. $$-$$$

## *Camping*

**Front Royal Washington DC West KOA**, adjacent to Skyline Drive and Shenandoah National Park, ☎ 540-635-2741, has 20 Kamping Kabins in resort-style setting. Kids can enjoy the waterslide.

**Gooney Creek Campground**, on Route 340, five miles south of Front Royal, ☎ 540-635-4066, has 45 campsites in a wooded setting for tents and RVs. There are full hook-ups for RVs, canoes for recreation and hot showers. It is open March through November.

## *Transportation*

The **Shenandoah Valley Airport** in Rockingham County is served by United Express and USAir Express, while both **Dulles International Airport** and **Ronald Reagan National Airport** in Washington DC provide long-range continental and international flights. The **Front Royal-Warren County Airport** houses companies offering airplane rights and sightseeing-by-air. ☎ 540-635-3570.

## *Information*

For more information about Front Royal and the Shenandoah Valley including directions, points of interest, brochures, maps and lodging assistance, contact the **Front Royal Visitor Center**, 414 East Main Street, Front Royal, VA 22630, ☎ 800-338-2576.

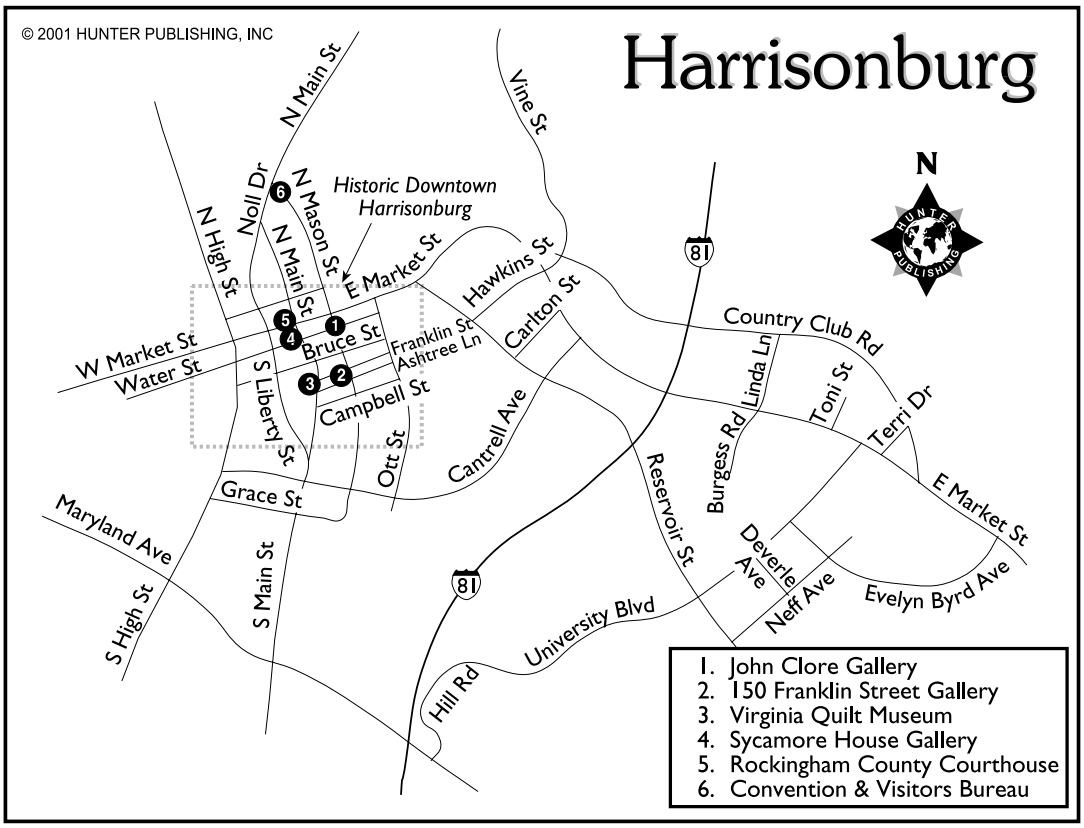
# Harrisonburg & Rockingham County

Because of their location in the heart of the Shenandoah Valley, Harrisonburg and Rockingham County are an ideal home base if you enjoy taking quick trips to unique stores, historical sites and museums or nearby attractions.

The busy city of Harrisonburg serves as the major financial and retail center for eight counties. In downtown Harrisonburg there are a number of unique specialty shops, and the Valley Mall has four department stores, more than 60 specialty stores and a food court. If that's not enough, you will find even more shopping at the many strip centers throughout the city.

One of the downtown landmarks of Harrisonburg is the city's stately old limestone courthouse, built on land donated in 1779 by prominent area farmer Thomas Harrison. James Madison University is in the heart of Harrisonburg, where the bluestone buildings give the campus a distinctive, yet traditional look. Also in Harrisonburg is the Eastern Mennonite University and Seminary, an important partner in the spiritual foundation of the city.

The small towns that make up Rockingham County also offer some delightful shopping opportunities and experiences off the beaten path. The county is further known as one of the few remaining sources for primitive antiques.




# *Sights*

The **Daniel Harrison House**, 335 Main Street in the town of Dayton, south of Harrisonburg, is also referred to as Fort Harrison. Built in 1749 by the brother of Thomas Harrison, the home features belonging of Harrison family descendants and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. A newly renovated summer kitchen is available for tours. Seasonal festivals are also held here and tours are conducted on Saturdays and Sundays, May through October. Group tours are available by appointment throughout the year. ☎ 540-879-2280.

The **Harrisonburg-Rockingham County Historical Society** at 382 High Street in Dayton houses the **Shenandoah Valley Folk Art & Heritage Center.** The center collects and preserves artifacts significant to the art and cultural life of the Valley. A huge, one-of-a-kind electronic map of Stonewall Jackson's Valley Campaign, in which more than 300 lights follow the movements of the Campaign, depicts this defining event in the region's history. There's also a genealogical library and a bookstore. It's open Monday, Thursday, Friday and on weekends. ☎ 540-879-2616.

**Virginia Quilt Museum**, 301 S. Main Street, is a showcase for antique and contemporary quilts. Housed in the historic Warren Sipe house, the museum also houses research material for studying quilts and their role in culture and society. It is open on Monday, Thursday and Friday and on the weekend. ☎ 540-433-3818.

**Court Square Theater** in the Marketplace on Harrisonburg's Court Square is a year-round performing arts center featuring music, movies and live theater. ☎ 540-433-9189.

The **Lincoln Homestead**, nine miles north of Harrisonburg in Rockingham County off Route 42, is an old brick house, the right wing of which was built by Abraham Lincoln's grandfather. The Homestead was the birthplace of the president's father. The main portion of the house was built around 1800 by Captain Jacob Lincoln. The house is privately owned.

**The Harrisonburg Farmers Market**, in the Water Street parking deck, brings together a fine selection of the produce, baked goods and crafts produced in the county. It operates Tuesday and Saturday mornings.

The **Town of Bridgewater** was the setting for the flatboats loaded with pig iron from Miller's Iron Works on Mossy Creek. The boats were also laden with hides, skins and grain produced in the area. Everything was then floated downstream from Bridgewater to Port Republic, eventually ending up in Alexandria. Today, Mossy Creek is known for its fly-fishing. Bridgewater is also home to **Bridgewater College**, established in the 1880s and Virginia's first co-educational college. The **Reuel B. Pritchett Museum** is on the college campus. ☎ 540-828-5462.

The **Turner Ashby House**, also known as the Kemper House, is the home of the **Port Republic Museum**. This small town was a Civil War battleground, and the battlefield itself is in good condition. The museum preserves artifacts from the war, as well as exhibits and information relating to the bustling river history. It is open on Sunday afternoons, or by appointment. ☎ 540-249-5668.

**Grand Caverns** in Grottoes, a few miles south of Port Republic, opened in 1806, making it one of the oldest cave attractions in Virginia. Thomas Jefferson visited the system. When Stonewall Jackson and his troops came, they left their signatures on the cave walls. Visitors will see the caverns' rare "shield formations." Their formation is a mystery even today. Tours lasting an hour operate daily between April and October, on weekends in March. ☎ 540-249-5705.

Equal in awe-inspiring beauty to Grand Caverns are the rock formations above ground at **Natural Chimneys Regional Park** in Mt. Solon, west of Harrisonburg near the town of Bridgewater. Today, it's difficult to imagine that the Shenandoah Valley was once the floor of a great inland sea. Centuries ago, when the sea receded, the awesome forces of nature carved out an incredible formation from the solid rock. The Natural Chimneys tower some 120 feet above the valley floor, a magnificent natural spectacle. Viewed from one angle, the mighty formations resemble enormous chimneys, standing in bleak contrast to the forests of the valley. From another angle, they resemble a medieval castle. Natural Chim-

neys Regional Park offers more than just the spectacle of mighty rock formations. Campers will also find plenty of activities. ☎ 540-350-2510.

**Landwirt Vineyards**, 8223 Simmers Valley Road Harrisonburg, ☎ 540-833-6000, offers estate-bottled wines from vinifera grapes. April through December, the winery offers free public tastings on weekends. Private tastings can be made by appointment January through March.

## *Shopping*

**The Shoppes at Mauzy**, off I-81 at Exit 257 near Mauzy, is a converted 1800s stagecoach inn now filled with shops and boutiques. There are antiques, furniture makers, dried flowers, candles, handcrafted items, local artwork and more. ☎ 540-896-9867.

**Shenandoah Heritage Farmers Market**, several miles south of Harrisonburg on Route 11, packs antiques, arts and crafts, furniture and Civil War memorabilia under an acre-sized building. Model train enthusiasts will find accessories here. If you're headed outdoors, there are also hunting, fishing and camping supplies. ☎ 540-433-3929.

In nearby Dayton, the **Dayton Farmers Market**, is another year-round source of antiques, folk art, home-baked goods and delicious country cooking. ☎ 540-879-9885.

**Suters Handcrafted Furniture**, 2610 S. Main Street in Harrisonburg, features chairs, tables, hutches and other pieces of fine furniture. ☎ 540-434-2131.

## *Galleries*

**John Clore Gallery**, inside the First Union Bank at the corner of Market and Mason streets in Harrisonburg, ☎ 540-879-2912, is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5p.m. and features monthly exhibits by members of the Central Shenandoah Arts group.

**150 Franklin Street Gallery**, on Franklin Street in Old Town Harrisonburg, is the city's first multi-cultural fine arts gallery and features work by local and national artists. It is open Wednesday through Saturday. ☎ 540-434-3824.

**Sycamore House Gallery**, 103 S. Main Street, Harrisonburg, exhibits the work of local and regional artists with receptions held every two weeks. ☎ 540-434-0072.

**Sawhill Gallery**, on the campus of James Madison University in Harrisonburg, is open seven days a week and features art in multi-media forms. ☎ 540-568-6407.

**Zirkle House**, 983 S. Main Street in Harrisonburg, houses the art of James Madison University students in two galleries and the work of professional photographers in a third. Open Monday through Sunday. ☎ 540-568-6869.

## *Recreation*

More than 139,000 acres of the **George Washington National Forest** are found in western Rockingham County, and the county is bordered on the east by the **Shenandoah National Park**. The Forest and the Park are perfect for hiking, fishing, horseback riding and exploring nature's beauty and serenity. In addition, the Shenandoah National Park is home to the **Skyline Drive**. The Swift Run Gap entrance to the Skyline Drive is in eastern Rockingham County, near Elkton.

## *Annual Events*

The **Rockingham County Fair** runs for one week every summer in Harrisonburg, 4808 South Valley Pike. Country elements such as livestock, horse shows, poultry exhibits and woodworking mix with a colorful midway and nightly country, bluegrass or gospel music headliners. For information on fair dates, admission and shows, ☎ 540-434-0005 or visit www.shenandoah.org/fair/.

**Green Valley Bookfair**, in the town of Mount Crawford south of Harrisonburg, features three floors of showroom space and a half-million new books filling two buildings. Open on select dates throughout the year. ☎ 800-385-0099 or visit www.gvbookfair.com for more information.

## *Dining*

**Boston Beanery Restaurant and Tavern**, 1617 E. Market Street, Harrisonburg, ☎ 540-432-6834, offers casual lunch and dinner daily, serving big sandwiches and healthy portions of steak, seafood, and pasta.

**Calhoun's Restaurant & Brewing Co.**, 41 Court Square, Harrisonburg, ☎ 540-434-8777, serves lunch and dinner daily, and brunch on Sunday. Beer is brewed on the premises and the menu is an eclectic variety of American dishes.

**Woodstone Deli & Pizzeria**, at Massanutten Resort in McGaheysville, ☎ 540-289-4958, serves up some nice variations on the pizza-sub theme, with gourmet toppings and in-house specials on sandwiches.

**Pano's Restaurant**, 3190 S. Main Street in Harrisonburg, ☎ 540-433-5000, is a family-style restaurant open daily for lunch and dinner.

# Accommodations

Most establishments offer both handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms, but be sure to ask when making reservations.

## Hotels & Motels

**Comfort Inn**, 1440 East Market Street, Harrisonburg, ☎ 540-433-6066, has just 60 guest rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. The hotel has a heated pool and pets are allowed in the guest rooms. There is a complimentary continental breakfast and a senior citizen discount. $$

**Courtyard by Marriott** at 1890 Evelyn Byrd Avenue, Harrisonburg, ☎ 540-432-3031, has 125 guest rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. The hotel has a restaurant, lounge and meeting rooms, a fitness center and an indoor pool. $$-$$$.

**Econo Lodge**, at Exit 247A on Interstate 81, Harrisonburg, ☎ 540-433-2576, is a well-appointed motel with 89 guest rooms including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. The hotel has a swimming pool and an exercise room. There is a complimentary continental breakfast and a senior citizen discount.

**Hampton Inn**, 85 University Boulevard, Harrisonburg, ☎ 540-432-1111, has 164 guest rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. The hotel has a swimming pool and several meeting rooms. There is a complimentary continental breakfast and a senior citizen discount. $$

**Howard Johnson Inn**, 605 Port Republic Road at Exit 245 on Interstate 81, Harrisonburg, ☎ 540-434-6771, has 134 guest rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. The hotel has a full-service restaurant and café, a swimming pool and a wading pool. There is a senior citizen discount. $$

**Ramada Inn**, 1 Pleasant Valley Road, Harrisonburg, ☎ 540-434-9981, has more than 130 guest rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. The hotel has a full-service restaurant and café, a bar, a swimming pool and several meeting rooms. Pets are allowed in the guest rooms and there is a senior citizen discount. $$

**Sheraton Four Points Hotel**, 1400 East Market Street, Harrisonburg,, ☎ 540-433-2521, is a well-appointed hotel with 138 guest rooms and suites, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. The hotel has a full-service restaurant and café, a bar, two swimming pools with poolside service and several meeting rooms. Pets are allowed in the guest rooms and there is a senior citizen discount. $$-$$$

**Shoney's Inn**, 45 Burgess Road, Harrisonburg, ☎ 540-433-6089, has 98 guest rooms including 10 kitchen suites and handicapped-accessible and

non-smoking rooms. The hotel has a full-service restaurant and café next door, a swimming pool, several meeting rooms and an exercise room. There is free coffee in the lobby and a senior citizen discount. $$

**The Village Inn**, located on Route 11, 1½ miles south of Exit 243 on Interstate 81, Harrisonburg, ☎ 540-434-7355, is a fairly small motel with 37 guest rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. The hotel has a full-service restaurant and café and a swimming pool. Pets are allowed in the guest rooms, there is free airport transportation, and a senior citizen discount is available. $$

## *Bed & Breakfasts / Inns*

Five minutes from Courthouse Circle, **By the Side of the Road Bed & Breakfast**, 491 Garbers Church Road, Harrisonburg, ☎ 540-801-0430, occupies the former home of Virginia's first Mennonite Bishop. There are five suites, each one with a private bath, television and VCR, a gas log fireplace and feather beds. Visit www.by-the-side-of-the-road-bb.com for more information. $$-$$$

**Apple Orchard Farm Bed & Breakfast**, 4478 Donnelley Drive in Bridgewater, ☎ 540-828-2126, has five guest rooms, including a family suite. You get an impressive view overlooking the city and river from the front porch. Apple trees provide fruit for the breakfast pastries, hens lay eggs for breakfast and the innkeepers are always making breads and baked goods. $-$$

**Boxwood Bed & Breakfast**, 11426 Rawley Springs Road in Hinton, ☎ 540-867-5772, is a private home with three guest rooms, two with private baths. Built in the 1920s, the home has the feeling of a much older home. Outdoors, there's a trout fishing stream nearby, and lots of hiking opportunities in the George Washington National Forest. $$

**Hearth N' Holly Inn**, 46 Songbird Lane in Penn Laird, ☎ 540-434-6766, has three guest rooms in a Colonial-style home built around the time of the Civil War. Although set amid rural surroundings, the inn is just 10 minutes from Harrisonburg. A full breakfast is served. $$

**Joshua Wilton House Inn & Restaurant**, 412 S. Main Street in Harrisonburg, ☎ 540-434-4464, has five guest rooms, each with private bath. One of the few remaining Queen Anne Victorian-style homes left in the city, the inn is beautifully restored and decorated. It has two restaurants, one featuring fine dining, the other a café. It is conveniently located four blocks from both downtown and the college, JMU. $$$

**JoAnne's Bed & Breakfast**, 4629 Bloomer Spring Road in Elkton, ☎ 540-298-9723, is a private Shenandoah Valley farmhouse with comfortable rooms near Massanutten Resort. $$-$$$

Rockingham County is also the home of the **Massanutten Resort**, the perfect place for visitors to relax or find adventure. The resort, open year-

round, is best known for its magnificent ski slopes, golf courses and its indoor sports complex. Visitors can also fish, swim, hike and ride horses. The resort is also known as a center for mountain biking. ☎ 540-289-9441. $$-$$$

### *Camping*

**Harrisonburg/New Market KOA**, on Route 603 in Broadway, ☎ 540-896-8929, is a family-owned and operated campground set in the quiet, scenic woodland of the Shenandoah Valley. There are fullservices for RVs, including dump stations and LP gas, as well as cabins, a swimming pool, playground and tenting area.

## *Transportation*

**The Shenandoah Valley Airport** in Rockingham County is served by USAirways Express, while both **Dulles International** and **Reagan Washington National Airports** provide long-range continental and international flights.

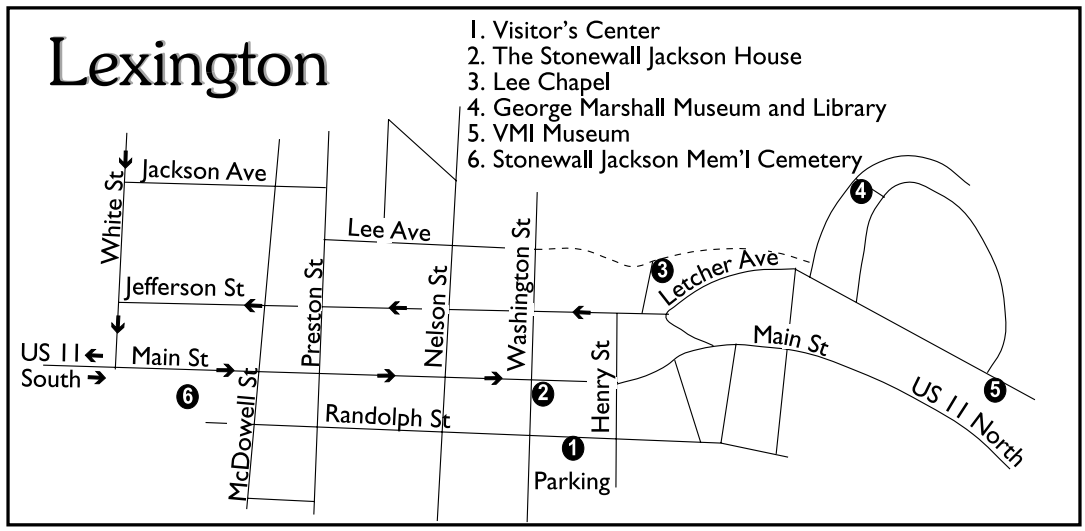
## *Information*

For more information about Harrisonburg, Rockingham County and the Shenandoah Valley including directions, points of interest, brochures, maps and lodging assistance, contact the **Harrisonburg-Rockingham Convention and Visitors Bureau**, 10 E. Gay Street, Harrisonburg, VA 22801, ☎ 540-434-2319, or visit www.svta.org/hrcvb for more information on the region.

# Lexington & Rockbridge County

Historic Lexington, set deep in the rolling countryside of the Shenandoah Valley between the Blue Ridge and Allegheny Mountains, is the county seat of Rockbridge County. Lexington is known for its attractive homes, fine old mansions, two of the finest institutes of learning in the commonwealth and two of Virginia's greatest Confederate heroes. Robert E. Lee and Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson lived and are buried in the city.

Statesman Sam Houston was also born near Lexington. To the north of the city, Cyrus McCormick invented the mechanized reaper that revolutionized American agricultural production. General George C. Marshall was a graduate of the Virginia Military Institute in 1901. George Washington endowed the school now known as Washington and Lee University. Matthew Fontaine Maury, known as the Pathfinder of the Seas, was




a professor at VMI. In 1774 Thomas Jefferson purchased the nearby Natural Bridge, one of the seven natural wonders of the world, and the landmark from which Rockbridge County takes its name.

Today, visitors to Historic Lexington receive a warm welcome to the old college town. The visitor center is the starting point for a self-guided walking tour. Exhibits at the center provide an introduction to the community and its heritage. Counselors can assist with information about area attractions, shopping, special events, recreation, accommodations and travel directions.

In Rockbridge County are the Theater at Lime Kiln, the Virginia Horse Center, Natural Bridge of Virginia, Goshen Pass, and Cyrus McCormick's Farm and Workshop. Buena Vista, just seven miles east of Lexington, is the home of Southern Virginia College, with its main building an 1890s hotel. Area recreational opportunities include hunting, fishing, hiking, white water canoeing, horseback riding, swimming, biking and camping.

## *Sights*

**Downtown Lexington**. The downtown area of Lexington is a Virginia Historic District. The architecture at the center of the city is fascinating. Two buildings were designed by Thomas U. Walter, who designed the dome on the US Capitol Building. The downtown area offers a multitude of shopping opportunities from clothing to baked goods, and from local crafts to books. There are also several country inns and a number of fine restaurants.

The **Cyrus McCormick Farm and Workshop**, at Steeles Tavern just off Route 606, is where Cyrus McCormick invented the first mechanical reaper and revolutionized the world of agriculture. Visitors can view the blacksmith's shop, grist mill, museum and scenic site at the McCormick Farm, Walnut Grove. The Farm is open daily year-round. Admission is free. ☎ 540-377-2255.

The **George C. Marshall Museum**, at the Virginia Military Institute, is where you can see exhibits that trace the career of General Marshall, architect of the Marshall Plan, which provided aid to rebuild European countries devastated by World War II. A 25-minute presentation and map tell the significant events of the war. Visitors can also see General Marshall's Nobel Peace Prize and the Oscar won by General Frank McCarthy as producer of the movie *Patton*. Open daily except for Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's. ☎ 540-463-7103.

**Natural Bridge**, located on US 11 South, is one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World. The bridge, once surveyed by George Washington and owned by Thomas Jefferson, is a rare site to behold. The Cedar Creek Trail takes visitors 215 feet below the bridge arch. After dark, you can enjoy the Drama of Creation sound and light show. The Natural Bridge site also includes a cavern with fabulous rock formations 34 stories beneath the earth, a zoo with more than 400 species and a petting area, and a wax museum with some 125 life replicas in scenes that incorporate sound, light and animation. There are lodging, conference and banquet facilities, and the Colonial Dining Room for a bite to eat. The Natural Bridge site is open daily. ☎ 540-291-2121, www.naturalbridgeva.com.

The **Rockbridge Historical Society**, 101 E. Washington Street, offers a room-by-room tour through Campbell House, tracing the history of Lexington and Rockbridge County. Exhibits on Native Americans, early settlers, the Civil War-era and early 20th-century life fill the museum. Closed on Sundays and Mondays. Admission is free. Public gardens at the museum are open from dawn to dusk. ☎ 540-464-1058.

The **Stonewall Jackson House** is at 8 E. Washington Street. Guided tours of the only home General Jackson ever owned interpret the man as a citizen of Lexington, a professor at the Virginia Military Institute, a church leader and family man. A five-minute slide show gives an idea of Jackson's life in Lexington. There's also a museum shop where you can purchase gifts. The house is open daily except Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's Day and Easter Sunday. ☎ 540-463-2552, www.stonewalljackson.org.

The **Stonewall Jackson Memorial Cemetery**, on South Main Street, features the grave and a statue of the great Confederate general. The cemetery is also the resting place of more than a hundred Confederate veterans. It is open daily from dawn until dusk.

**Sam Houston's Birthplace**, on Route 11 five miles north of Lexington, is marked by a monument located at the Sam Houston Wayside, a rest area off Route 11, a quarter-mile past I-81. It honors the Houston, who later became governor of Texas.

**The Virginia Horse Center**, on Route 39, is the site for various horse-related functions, including shows, auctions, educational clinics, workshops and a horse festival. A 4,000 seat coliseum hosts year-round events.

Stables on site can house as many as 700 horses. ☎ 540-463-2194 for schedules and information.

The **Virginia Military Institute**. Founded in 1839, VMI is the oldest state-supported military college in the nation. The 12-acre parade ground is dominated by the barracks. A 15-point walking tour will take you past these imposing stone buildings and monuments. The entire complex is a designated National Historic District. Full dress parades are held most Friday afternoons during the school year. ☎ 540-464-7306 for information or visit www.vmi.edu.

**The VMI Museum**, in the Jackson Memorial Hall at the Virginia Military Institute, features exhibits about the history and traditions of the Institute and includes Stonewall Jackson's war horse Little Sorrell, a replica of a cadet room, cadet rings and much more. The museum is open daily, except Thanksgiving, Christmas week and New Year's Day. Admission is free. ☎ 540-464-7232.

**Washington and Lee University** is a distinguished private non-denominational college with an enrollment of more than 1,800 students from all over the nation and many foreign countries. Named for George Washington and Confederate General Robert E. Lee, the college is a National Historic Landmark. Lee served as president of the school after the Civil War, from 1865 until 1870. He is buried in Lee Chapel on the college campus, which displays some of his personal and business effects, as well as the famous Charles Wilson Peale portrait of George Washington. Open daily throughout the year. ☎ 540-463-8768.

**Military Memorabilia**, 122 S. Main Street, ☎ 540-464-3041, displays uniforms of the militaries of the United States, Great Britain, France and Germany. Open April through October, and year-round by appointment. Closed Sunday through Tuesday.

## *Tours*

**Military Tour of Historic Lexington** is a suggested guide for visiting the buildings, monuments and museums that preserve this small town's military history. The 11-point tour begins at the Lexington Visitors Center. ☎ 540-463-3777.

**Lexington Carriage Company** gives tours of Lexington in horse-drawn carriages. The 45-minute ride is narrated by the carriage driver and tour guide. Tours run between April and October, except in bad weather. Group tours are available. ☎ 540-463-5647.

**Ghost Tour of Lexington** is a 1½-hour twilight walk through the back streets and alleys of town, ending at the Stonewall Jackson Cemetery. For a real scare, try a Victorian-style séance re-creation (groups of 10 to 13 people only). Tours begin at the Lexington Visitors Center. ☎ 540-348-1080.

**Rockbridge Vineyard**, 30 Hillview Lane in Raphine, ☎ 540-377-6204 or 888-511-WINE, produces award-winning vintages by winemaker Shepherd Rouse. Wines include Chardonnay, Tuscarora White and Red, Riesling and St. Mary's Blanc. Tours and tastings run May through December 20, Wednesday through Saturday.

**Llama Trekking** is offered by the **Applewood Inn** on Buffalo Bend Road south of Lexington off Route 11. Two-hour llama rides go along mountain trails. Visitors can have lunch catered. ☎ 540-463-1962.

## *Entertainment*

Washington and Lee University's **Lenfest Center for the Performing Arts** produces a number of programs during the academic year, September to May. The center has two theaters for student and professional productions, a gallery of Western art and a theater school for the university. ☎ 540-463-8000 for information and schedules.

The **Theater at Lime Kiln**, located on Borden Road, is where master stone masons once plied their trade and the kilns burned red-hot making lime. Today, actors and musicians delight audiences on pleasant summer evenings. Stone ruins form the stage, the star-studded sky the roof. The 12-acre site has three performance spaces and plays are presented Tuesday through Saturday. On Sundays, musicians from around the world are featured as part of an ongoing concert series. ☎ 540-463-3074 for schedules and information.

## *Annual Events*

**The Annual Birthday Convocation** honoring Robert E. Lee is a birthday celebration for the former president of Washington and Lee University. Ceremonies are held at the University on his birthday, January 19th.

**Stonewall Jackson's Birthday** is celebrated at the Stonewall Jackson House where visitors are welcomed with birthday cake on January 21st.

The **Bonnie Blue National Horse Show**, held at the Virginia Horse Center the second week in May, is a major, all-breed event. ☎ 540-463-2194 for schedules and information.

**Maury River Annual Fiddlers' Convention** is held in June at the Glen Maury Park, featuring Old Time and bluegrass music, food and dancing. ☎ 540-261-2880.

**The Rockbridge Community Festival**, held on the streets of Lexington the last Saturday in August, is an old-fashioned arts and crafts festival with music and events for children.

The **Rockbridge Regional Fair**, held at the Virginia Horse Center in late July, is a traditional country fair with livestock and farming exhibits. Events include an antique tractor pull, a horseshoe pitching contest, rodeo, horse show and car racing.

**"Holiday Traditions"** is a Christmas celebration held over several weekends in late November and early December. Events include a tree lighting ceremony, a parade, caroling and a professional theater production.

## *Recreation*

Lexington, Rockbridge County and the Shenandoah Valley offer dozens of outdoor recreational opportunities. The following is only a sample. For a full list, call the Lexington Visitor Center, ☎ 540-463-3777.

### *Natural Areas*

**Woods Creek Park** and **The Chessie Nature Trail** combine to form a park and pedestrian trail stretching from Lexington to Buena Vista. It's great for hiking, birdwatching, running, fishing, cross-country skiing and picnicking. There are playgrounds at the south end of Woods Creek Park in Lexington. An old canal lock on The Chessie Trail harkens back to days when boats plied the Maury and James Rivers for trading. Vehicles, including bicycles, are not allowed on the trail. A brochure is available at the Lexington Visitors Center. ☎ 540-463-3777.

**Goshen Pass**, on Route 39 12 miles north of Lexington, is a mountain gorge more than three miles long where visitors can enjoy such outdoor activities as fishing, swimming, tubing, canoeing, picnicking, nature watching and hiking on a trail that runs along the north side of the river. A brochure is available at the Lexington Visitors Center. ☎ 540-463-3777.

### *Water Sports*

**The Wilderness Canoe Company**, 631 James River Road in Natural Bridge Station, offers low-impact, self-guided float trips for novices and experts. The company is open May through September, and by reservation in October. ☎ 540-291-2295 for reservations and information.

The **James River Basin Canoe Livery**, 1870 East Midland Trail (Route 60), offers canoeing for everyone. The center provides fast water or lazy paddling, big game fishing or spectacular scenery, a day out on the river or a place to go camping. The Livery is open from May 1st through September 30th. ☎ 540-261-7334 or visit http://CanoeVirginia.com.

### *Other Activities*

**Quail Ridge Sporting Clays**, located on Murat Road, features "golf with a shotgun." The half-mile course consists of 13 stations that provide

a wide variety of birds thrown from different angles, at varying speeds and distances. You shoot them with a shotgun. The center is open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. until dusk, and from noon until dusk on Sunday. ☎ 540-463-1800.

## *Galleries*

**Artisans on Washington Street**, 22 W. Washington Street, Lexington, ☎ 540-464-3625, is located in a 19th-century building and features fine crafts and the work of Virginia artists. It is closed on Sundays.

**Artists in Cahoots**, 1 W. Washington Street, Lexington, ☎ 540-464-1147, is owned and operated by a group of artists. Their works depict the Shenandoah Valley's natural beauty through paintings, prints, botanicals and photographs. Ceramics, furniture, art glass and ironwork are also on display. Open daily, spring through fall.

**duPont Gallery**, in duPont Hall on the Washington & Lee University campus in Lexington, ☎ 540-463-8861, brings visiting artists to the region for exhibits, and showcases the work of student artists. Closed on Saturday and Sunday.

**Lexington Art Gallery**, 13 W. Nelson Street, Lexington, ☎ 540-464-8080, specializes in black-and-white photography and turn-of-the-century African art. Closed on Sunday and Monday.

**Nelson Street Gallery**, 123 W. Nelson Street, Lexington, ☎ 540-463-9827, is Lexington's newest cooperative art gallery. It features monthly exhibits on member artists' work, as well as visiting artists. Closed on Sunday and Monday.

## *Shopping*

For the small town that it is, Lexington offers an enormous number of shops, specialty stores and outlets. The downtown district has all sorts of opportunities for browsing, dining and just wandering the streets for an afternoon of antiquing. In the countryside, unique shops wait to be discovered, like **Buffalo Springs Herb Farm** and **Orchardside Yarn Shop** in Raphine, **Old South Antiques**, **Ltd.** in Brownsburg, **Wade's Mill**, north of Raphine, and **The General Store** in Buena Vista. For a complete list of places to shop in Lexington and Rockbridge County, call the Lexington-Rockbridge Chamber of Commerce, ☎ 540-463-5375.

**The Lexington Antique Mall**, on US 11 north in the College Square Shopping Center, provides some 40,000 square feet of quality antiques and crafts from more than 250 dealers. The mall is open daily except Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter. ☎ 540-463-9511.

**The Bookery, Ltd.**, 107 W. Nelson Street, Lexington, ☎ 540-464-3377, sells and trades new and used books and will conduct out-of-print searches for rare titles.

**Celtic Connection**, 19 W. Nelson Street, Lexington, ☎ 540-464-6545, is a touch of Ireland in the middle of Virginia, featuring fine cut glass, crystal, kilts and music imported from Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

**The Shenandoah Attic**, 23 S. Main Street, Lexington, ☎ 540-464-8383, stocks a selection of throws, pottery, Yankee Candles, gourmet foods and miniatures that reflect the culture of the Shenandoah region.

**The Victorian Parlour**, 13. S. Main Street, Lexington, ☎ 540-464-8888, is a small boutique specializing in lace, china, crystal, tapestry and stationery.

**Virginia Born & Bred**, 16 W. Washington Street, Lexington, ☎ 540-463-1832, has native Virginia products ranging from folk art to Virginia wines. This is the place to get Virginia peanuts, jellies and hams.

**Washington Street Purveyors**, 9 E. Washington Street, Lexington, ☎ 540-464-WINE, sells fine wines, cigars, micro-brews, brewing supplies, gourmet snacks and gourmet cooking accessories.

## *Dining*

As befits a town with a colorful history, Lexington offers an array of fine dining choices. In downtown, more than 28 restaurants, cafés, bistros and lounges do business. Throughout Rockingham County visitors will find country-themed restaurants, many specializing in Southern cooking. The list below is a sample of restaurants. ☎ 540-463-3777 for a complete list.

**Blue Heron Café**, 4 E. Washington Street, Lexington, ☎ 540-463-2800, is open for lunch during the week, and lunch and dinner on Friday and Saturday. The menu is diverse and ethnic. There's also a good selection of wines and micro-brewed beers. Closed on Sunday. Credit cards are not accepted. The restaurant is non-smoking.

**Country Cookin'**, 439 E. Nelson Street, Lexington, ☎ 540-463-3044, is open for lunch and dinner daily. This family restaurant serves hearty portions. An unlimited salad and vegetable bar and a dessert bar is included with every meal.

**Il Palazzo**, 24 N. Main Street, Lexington, ☎ 540-464-5800, is open for lunch and dinner daily, serving traditional Italian meals with fresh seafood and pizza specials.

**Lexington Coffee Roasting Co.**, 9 W. Washington Street, Lexington, ☎ 540-464-6586, is open daily for lunch serving fresh gourmet coffee, teas, frozen drinks, muffins and pastries.

**Sheridan Livery Inn Restaurant**, 35 N. Main Street, Lexington, ☎ 540-464-1887, offers fine dining for lunch and dinner. There's a lounge and an outside patio for casual dining. Closed Sundays.

The **Southern Inn Restaurant**, 37 S. Main Street, Lexington, ☎ 888-427-7979, is open for lunch and dinner. The restaurant, in an 1828 storefront, offers Southern cuisine and a diverse wine list. The inn hosts live music on Thursday and Friday. Closed Sunday.

**The Willison-Walker House**, 30 N. Main Street, Lexington, is in a fine old Greek-revival house, ☎ 540-463-3020. Open for lunch and dinner, it offers fine dining at extremely reasonable prices. Specialties of the house include medallions of veal and fresh seafood. Closed on Sunday. They offer outdoor dining from May through October.

**Sweet Things Ice Cream Shoppe**, 106 W. Washington Street, Lexington, ☎ 540-463-6055, is a refreshing stop for ice cream and other tasty desserts.

## *Accommodations*

Most establishments offer both handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms, but be sure to ask when making reservations.

### *Hotels & Motels*

**Best Western Inn at Hunt Ridge**, 25 Willow Springs Road, Lexington, ☎ 540-464-1500, has 100 guest rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms, a full-service restaurant, plus a lounge and an outdoor pool. Room service is available, and rooms are equipped with coffee makers, cable TV, and electronic locks. Guest laundry service is available. $$

**The Comfort Inn**, at the junction of US 11 and Interstate 64, Lexington, ☎ 540-463-7311, is a smaller motel with 80 rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. The hotel has an indoor swimming pool and a view of the mountains. Pets are allowed in the guest rooms. Free coffee in provided in the lobby, and a complimentary continental breakfast is offered. Senior citizen discount. There is a restaurant next door. $$

**Days Inn Keydet-General**, one mile west of Lexington on US 60, Lexington, ☎ 540-463-2143, has 53 rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. There is a restaurant and café, bar, meeting room, and picnic tables with a view of the mountains. Pets are allowed in the guest rooms. Discount for seniors. $-$$

**Holiday Inn Express**, one mile north of Lexington on US 11, Lexington, ☎ 540-463-7351, has 72 rooms, including handicapped-accessible and

non-smoking rooms. Continental breakfast; pets allowed in the rooms. Senior discount. $$

**Hampton Inn Col Alto**, 401 E. Nelson Street, Lexington, ☎ 540-463-2223, has 76 rooms, and is within walking distance of downtown. It is housed in a 19th-century manor home. Handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms are available. Continental breakfast is served daily. There is an outdoor pool and Jacuzzi, plus conference and meeting space. The staff will arrange carriage rides through town for guests. $$-$$$

**Howard Johnson**, six miles north of Lexington on US 11, Lexington, ☎ 540-463-9181, has 100 rooms. It offers a restaurant, café, swimming pool, meeting and banquet facilities. The hotel is located on a hillside and offers magnificent views of the mountains. Handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms available; pets allowed in the guest rooms. Senior citizen discount. $-$$

**Ramada Inn**, 2814 N. Lee Highway, Lexington, ☎ 540-463-6400, has 80 rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. There is a full-service restaurant and café, a bar, a heated indoor swimming pool and several meeting rooms. Pets permitted. Discount for senior citizens. $-$$

**Travelodge**, 2809 N. Lee Highway, Lexington, ☎ 540-463-9131, has 151 guest rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. There is a swimming pool and a playground for children. Senior citizen discount. $-$$

## *Bed & Breakfasts / Inns*

Lexington makes a serious bid for the designation "Bed and Breakfast Capital of Virginia." More than 30 inns cater to the whims of those visiting Lexington and surrounding towns. Listed below is a sampling of fine inns. For a complete list, contact the **Lexington-Rockbridge County Chamber of Commerce**, ☎ 540-463-5375.

**Historic Country Inns of Lexington**, 11 North Main Street, Lexington, ☎ 540-463-2044, provides guests with a pleasant room in an old house built around 1809 and furnished with period antiques. The rate includes a continental breakfast, and the guests have pool and tennis privileges. $$-$$$

**A B&B At Llewellyn Lodge**, 603 S. Main Street, Lexington, ☎ 540-463-3235 or 800-882-1145, is a convenient in-town bed and breakfast within walking distance of the historic district and colleges. There are six guest rooms, each with a private bath, and a full breakfast served. Innkeepers Ellen and John Roberts offer golf, fishing and horseback riding packages. Visit www.llodge.com. $$

The **Applewood Inn**, Buffalo Bend Road, Lexington, ☎ 540-463-1962 or 800-463-1902, is a short drive up scenic Buffalo Creek to a solar-powered

home set amid 35 acres of private, hilly acres. Hiking, llama treks, a pool and hot tub await guests staying in the inn's four rooms, each with private bath. Innkeepers Linda and Christian Best will provide a picnic lunch or dinner with notice. Visit www.applewoodbb.com. $$-$$$

**Brierley Hill B&B Inn**, 985 Borden Road, Lexington, ☎ 540-464-8421 or 800-422-4925; sits five minutes from downtown Lexington on a sweeping eight acres with views of the Blue Ridge Mountains. There are five rooms, each with a private bath, and children over 14 are welcome. Visit www.brierleyhill.com for more information. $$-$$$

At the **Inn at Union Run**, 325 Union Run Road, Lexington, ☎ 540-463-9715 or 800-528-6466, a stately 1883 manor house packed with antiques provides the setting for innkeepers Roger and Jeanette Serens' bed-and-breakfast getaway. There are eight rooms, each with private bath. Six rooms have a whirlpool bath. The inn is available for weddings and receptions as well. Visit www.unionrun.com for more information. $$-$$$

**Lavender Hill Farm B&B**, 1374 Big Spring Drive, Lexington, ☎ 540-464-5877 or 800-446-4240, offers guests the choice of two rooms or a suite, all with private bath, in a restored 1790 working sheep farm. This outdoor get-away offers guests a chance to hike or fish, ride horses or just relax. Visit www.lavhill.com for more information. $$

**Stoneridge Bed & Breakfast**, Stoneridge Lane, Lexington, ☎ 540-463-4090 or 800-491-2930, is an 1829 Federal plantation home with five guest rooms, each with private bath. Tucked in a wooded setting, the inn is just minutes from downtown Lexington. Visit www.webfeat-inc.com/stoneridge for more information. $$-$$$

Nestled between Lexington and Warm Springs is the small town of Goshen, on scenic Route 39 and 42 in northwest Rockbridge County. There you'll find the **Hummingbird Inn** at 30 Wood Lane, ☎ 540-997-9065 or 800-397-3214. The inn offers five guest accommodations, each with a private bath, in a Victorian setting. Innkeepers Diana and Jeremy Robinson will serve you a candlelight dinner by reservation. Visit www.hummingbirdinn.com for more information. $$-$$$

## *Camping*

**Lake A. Willis Robertson**, on Route 770 in nearby Collierstown, is a 31-acre lake and recreational area where you can camp, fish and swim. Facilities and amenities include sites with water and electric hookups, a swimming pool, a bathhouse, a comfort station with flush toilets and showers, mountain hiking trails, tennis courts, picnic areas, a group shelter and a playing area. The campground is open from May through Labor Day. ☎ 540-463-4164.

**The Glen Maury Park and Campground**, 2039 Sycamore Avenue in Buena Vista, is set on 315 acres of rolling land with more than a mile of river frontage. Facilities at the park include camping sites, an Olympic-

size swimming pool, hiking and nature trails, ball fields, tennis courts, picnic areas and covered picnic shelters. Volunteers are restoring a 19th-century farmhouse, The Paxton House, which is listed in the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places. ☎ 540-261-7321.

**Cave Mountain Lake Recreation Area**, on Route 781 in Natural Bridge Station, 20 miles southeast of Lexington, ☎ 540-291-2188, has 42 campsites. There are no hookups for RVs, and trailers over 22 feet are not allowed. Operated by the Jefferson National Forest. Open May to November.

**Long's Campground**, 82 Campground Lane, five miles west of Lexington, ☎ 540-463-7622, has 45 sites with full hookups for RVs. The camp store has a pool, game room, laundry and playground. There is an 18-hole miniature golf course on site.

**Natural Bridge/Lexington KOA Campground**, 11 miles south of Lexington off Exit 180 (north) of I-81, ☎ 540-291-2770, has Kamping Kabins and large pull-through sites for RVs, a store, laundry, recreation room, pool, bike rentals and playground. Meals are served every night to campsites.

**Tye River Gap Campground**, 1932 Tye River Turnpike in Vesuvius, ☎ 540-377-6168, is a mile west of the Blue Ridge Parkway at Milepost 27. Campsites are wooded and there is a separate area for tents. There is a camp store, hot showers, laundry, game room, playground and swimming pool. Open March through November.

## *Transportation*

Lexington and Rockbridge County are served by the **Roanoke Regional Airport**, with service offered by most major and regional carriers direct or with connections to all major domestic and international destinations.

## *Information*

For information, brochures and a full list of area restaurants and hotels, contact the **Lexington Visitor Center** at 106 East Washington Street. Lexington, VA 24450, ☎ 540-463-3777.

# New Market & Luray

As the Shenandoah Valley rolls through western Virginia, it bumps up against Massanutten Mountain. In the shadows of this imposing, needle-shaped ridgeline sit Shenandoah and Page counties, with histories

stretching back to before the Revolutionary War. Here, more than any other part of the valley, visitors may sense the life of farmers, artisans and townsfolk who work and live off the land.

Shenandoah County, anchored at its southern end by New Market, covers the western slope of Massanutten and is known for battlefields, small town museums and century-old buildings, as well as for producing high quality folk art and pottery, fine furniture and wines. Page County, on the eastern slope, is centered around the town of Luray, a major travel center for the region with hotels convenient to area attractions.

Settled primarily by German immigrants who poured south out of Pennsylvania looking for farmland and a new place to live, these two counties burst with natural beauty. Deep caverns burrow into the limestone foundations of the surrounding mountains. Massanutten rises to heights of 3,000 feet and more. Here, and in nearby Basye, four-season resorts offer golf, biking, skiing and water activities. The North Fork of the Shenandoah River passes within a mile of Woodstock, allowing for paddling, fishing and other water activities. The George Washington National Forest protects land for timber and natural gas resources, as well as recreation. Across the valley, Luray is a gateway to Shenandoah National Park.

For generations, the region's rich soil produced wheat by the bushel. Shenandoah County was the "breadbasket of the Confederacy," supplying hungry Southern soldiers with food. Today, agriculture maintains a strong presence in the form of poultry farms and apple orchards.

The Old Valley Pike, now called Route 11, wends its way through the western valley created by Massanutten and the Alleghenies. This north-to-south route dates back to the Civil War, when troops passed over its macadam surface en route to their destiny at Antietam, Gettysburg and other bloody battles. Towns along this road witnessed fighting first-hand. Their old buildings, antique shops and museums, hold rich stores of history, folk art and crafts, and music. There are several artist-owned galleries where visitors can see artisans at work. And you're never far from a quality bed and breakfast inn.

Among the smaller towns, Strasburg heralds itself as the "antique capital of Virginia." Georgian and Victorian-style homes line the neighborhood streets of Woodstock, the county seat for Shenandoah County. Woodstock's 1795 stone courthouse is the oldest still in use west of the Blue Ridge Mountains. President Andrew Jackson made Mount Jackson a frequent stop en route to Washington DC from his home in Tennessee, prompting townsfolk to name it in his honor. The Meems Bottom Covered Bridge straddles the Shenandoah River at 191 feet high at Mount Jackson. Edinburg was once a regional trading center and Orkney Springs, just West of Bryce, hosts a popular annual music festival. Toms Brook and Maurertown were the sites of two battles during the Civil War, now preserved as parks.

In an area where natural beauty and history are almost commonplace, the countryside of Shenandoah and Page counties offer visitors an unspoiled link to the past.

## *Sights*

Civil War battlefields and roadside historic markers scattered throughout the northern Shenandoah Valley preserve the legacy of near-continuous fighting that occurred here. Confederate generals used the valley twice to penetrate the northern states – advances that were twice repelled, at Antietam Creek and at Gettysburg. In between, the North and South fought skirmishes and pitched battles resulting in thousands of lost lives.

- *Between Strasburg and New Market stand memorials to several battles and encampments. There is a study center for Civil War history at Hupp's Hill, a rail depot and museum in Strasburg, a Confederate generals' headquarters at Belle Grove Plantation and an interpretive center at Cedar Creek. The* ***Civil War Trails*** *program highlights significant sites in the region.* ☎ *888-CIVIL WAR for more information.*

**Crystal Caverns at Hupp's Hill** is located north of Strasburg on Route 11. This is the oldest cavern in the region. It is operated as a museum, rather than a tourist destination. Like other large caves in this region, it displays impressive rock formations. A lantern-led tour adds an element of underground mystery. There is a quarter-mile trail and an interpretive museum. ☎ 540-465-8660.

**Edinburg Madison District Museum**, 107 Center Street in the old town hall, preserves a collection of tools, products and information relating to the Shenandoah Telephone Company, as well as an old printing press and other memorabilia. It is open on weekends from June to October. Admission is free. ☎ 540-984-8521.

The **Endless Caverns**, off I-81 at Exit 257 in New Market, are hard to miss. The "Hollywood-style" sign sits high on the mountain and is visible for miles. This cave system is well known for its complex rock formations and has never been fully mapped. True to its name, no one has ever reached the cavern's end.

**Fort Valley Museum**, on Route 678 and 770 in Fort Valley, houses artifacts of this small town's history in a small red brick building. Records stored here date to before the Revolutionary War. It is open weekends, Memorial Day through Labor Day. Admission is free. ☎ 540-933-6309.

**Hall of Valor Civil War Museum**, at the New Market Battlefield State Historical Park on Route 305, recounts the Battle of New Market. Sol-

diers for the North and South, including a unit of college-aged cadets from the Virginia Military Institute, fought for several days among the apple trees and fields of the Bushong Farm. A diagram in the museum illustrates the strategies and sacrifices of both sides. The farm is restored with a blacksmith shop, loom house and summer kitchen. The museum is closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. ☎ 540-740-3101.

**New Market Battlefield Museum**, on Collins Drive in New Market, has more than 2,000 Civil War items on display. It is open March 15 to December 1. ☎ 540-740-8065.

**Luray Caverns**, off I-81 at exit 264, was formed over the course of four million years. Today, visitors pass by massive stone columns and pools in cathedral-sized rooms with 10-story high ceilings. An organ with pipes made of stalagmites and stalactites fills the cave with haunting sounds. Above ground there is a historic car and carriage museum, a café and a gift shop. Guided tours are available. Open year-round. ☎ 540-743-6551 , or visit www.luraycaverns.com.

**Mount Jackson Museum**, a short walk from the Union Church behind Town Hall, chronicles the efforts of Mount Jackson townsfolk, who dedicated themselves to identifying 400 Confederate soldiers buried in nearby Old Soldiers Cemetery. It is the only cemetery in Virginia where only Confederate dead are buried. Many of the soldiers died at a hospital that opened here during the Civil War. The museum is open year-round on weekends. ☎ 540-477-3010.

**Shenandoah Caverns**, two minutes from I-81 off Exit 269, four miles north of New Market, is another of the region's commercialized caves – albeit the only one with an elevator. Descending into the limestone depths of the Blue Ridge Mountains, visitors emerge into wide, expansive rooms with vaulted ceilings and impressive displays of flow rock, bacon and dome rock formations that earned this cave national recognition. For children, the cavern produces a parade featuring circus acts and Cinderella's pumpkin carriage. Open year-round. ☎ 540-477-3115.

At the **Stonewall Jackson Museum** at Hupp's Hill on Route 11 just north of Strasburg, the legacy of the Confederate general's Valley Campaign during the Civil War is on display. Considered a master tactician, Jackson directed the defense of the Valley in 1862 from invading Northern forces. It is said that American generals studied his work intensely in the days leading to World War II. Weapons, documents and Civil War regalia are on display. ☎ 540-465-5884.

**Museum of American Presidents**, 130 N. Massanutten Street in Strasburg, houses the impressive collection of one man, Leo Bernstein, who has spent a half-century collecting items relating to the presidency. Autographs from half the signers of the Declaration of Independence and most of America's 42 presidents are displayed, as well as election minutia and White House novelties, like the doors removed from the White House

during Harry S. Truman's administration. Children can dress up in period costumes and play in a Colonial-era classroom. ☎ 540-465-5999.

**The Strasburg Museum**, on West King Street, exhibits the art and craft history of Pot Town, as Strasburg is nicknamed, and houses collections relating to blacksmiths and barrel makers. The museum building itself is an old steam potters factory listed on state and national historic registers. It is open daily May through October. Admission is free. ☎ 540-465-3428.

**Woodstock Museum**, 137 W. Court Street, inside the historic 18th century Wickham House, preserves artifacts and documents important to the community's history. It is open May through September on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and by appointment. Admission is free. ☎ 540-459-5518.

## *Annual Events*

**Edinburg Olde Time Festival** in downtown Edinburg brings crafters and special events to town during September. ☎ 540-984-8521.

The **Annual Mayfest** is held in downtown Luray during May. ☎ 540-743-3915.

The **Page County Heritage Festival** is held during October in Luray. ☎ 540-743-3915

The **Shenandoah County Fair** is held in late August featuring harness racing, tractor pulls, livestock exhibits, rides and live music. ☎ 540-459-3867.

The **Shenandoah Valley Music Festival** is held at the Orkney Springs Hotel in Orkney Springs, bringing artists and different styles of music to the mountains over five weekends in the summer. The line up has featured symphonic music, bluegrass and Latin music, as well as a juried arts and crafts show. ☎ 800-459-3396 or visit www.musicfest.org.

The **New Market Heritage Festival** is held in October. ☎ 540-740-3212.

## *Recreation*

### *Golf*

**Shenvallee Golf Resort**, on Fairway Drive off US 11 in New Market, ☎ 540-740-3181, features 27 holes of golf within view of the Blue Ridge Mountains. First opened in 1927, this is a full-service resort with lodging and fine dining available, as well as a pool and lounge.

**Bryce Resort**, west of Mount Jackson on Route 263 in the town of Basye, ☎ 540-856-2121, is a four-season resort with an 18-hole championship golf course, as well as snow and grass skiing, tennis, horseback riding and a lake for water sports. There are several townhouse complexes around Bryce for rent as well.

**Caverns Country Club Resort**, in Luray, ☎ 540-743-6551, is a 27-hole golf course set in the shadows of the Blue Ridge Mountains, in the vicinity of Luray Caverns.

### *Water Sports*

**Shenandoah River Trips**, north of Luray on Route 684, ☎ 540-734-4159 or 800 6CANOE2, takes visitors on some of the Shenandoah River's most scenic stretches. You can canoe, kayak or tube the legendary river. Spend the night in cabins or river cottages and end your day with a steak dinner. Visit www.shenandoahriver.com for more information.

### *Horseback Riding*

**Skyland Stables** at Milepost 41 on Skyline Drive in Luray, ☎ 540-999-2210, will take you on one- or two-hour tours of Shenandoah National Park.

### *Natural Areas*

**Wolf Gap Recreation Area** is in the George Washington National Forest, west of Edinburg on Route 675. There are 10 primitive campsites; site #9 is the trailhead for a popular hike called Big Schloss, which takes you to impressive rock outcrops atop Massanutten Mountain. Call the Lee Ranger District at ☎ 540-984-4101.

**Shenandoah County Park** in Maurertown, north of Woodstock on Route 11, has trails, a sheltered picnic area and a playground.

## *Shopping*

**Antique Tables Made Daily**, on Lee Highway (Route 211) in Sperryville, ☎ 540-987-8834, makes custom reproductions of antique tables, beds, hutches, servers and desks. Visit www.antiquetables.com for more information.

**The Edinburg Shops**, 127 S. Main Street, ☎ 540-984-9785, feature locally made pottery, basket, dried flower arrangements, glass work and folk art.

**First Forest Furniture**, 15 Campbell Street in Luray, ☎ 540-743-2051, produces the hand-crafted furniture of John Coleman in the tradition of the valley's early German settlers.

**The Great Strasburg Emporium**, 160 N. Massanutten Street, ☎ 540-465-3711, houses numerous antique dealers in a 65,000-square-foot building. Among the notable exhibitors is the Shenandoah Potters Guild.

**La Dama Maya Herb and Flower Farm**, on Route 340 Business in Luray, ☎ 540-743-4665, features herb plants, dried herb and flower products grown on the farm. Special events and workshops are also held here.

**Murray's Fly Shop**, in Edinburg, ☎ 540-984-4212, sells fly-fishing rods, flies and lures and other fishing supplies. It provides guide services for fishing in the area as well as fishing schools.

## *Galleries*

Art – whether painting, photography or fine crafts – is a spectator event in the Shenandoah Valley, especially in the galleries and workshops of Shenandoah and Page County artisans. Chances are good you'll find an artist at work in their shop, producing work that captures the natural beauty of the region. We've listed a sampling of galleries, but the best way to find them is just to browse, one town to the next, looking for that perfect piece of pottery or the next must-have print.

The **Edinburg Gallery**, 108 N. Main Street, ☎ 540-984-3066, exhibits the work of Shenandoah Valley artists in an old Victorian-era home. It is open Sunday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday.

**Gallery 201**, 201 S. Main Street in Edinburg, ☎ 540-984-9438, displays the work of three area artists and two antique dealers. Visitors are invited to browse the gallery and watch the artists at work in their studios. It is open daily.

The **John Sevier Gallery**, 9391 Congress Street in New Market, ☎ 540-740-3911, presents monthly exhibits by Shenandoah Valley artists. The gallery also sells books by regional authors.

**River Farm**, 9408 Congress Street in New Market, ☎ 540-740-3314, carries on the tradition of fiber arts in the valley by offering workshops and exhibits of local weavers. The shop supplies area weavers, spinners, knitters and felters.

**Glasswork Gallery & Oldway Art Center**, 11794 Lee Highway (US 211), ☎ 540-987-8474, showcases the work of seven artists who produce their work on site. The center also sponsors classes, workshops and field trips, and rents space to artists.

## *Wineries*

**Shenandoah Vineyards**, on South Ox Road in Edinburg, cultivates grapes for award-winning wines on 40 lush acres set against Massanutten Mountain. Featured wines include Cabernet Sauvignon,

Merlot, Chardonnay, Riesling and Chambourcin. This is the Shenandoah Valley's oldest winery, established in 1976. There are picnic tables, a gift shop and guided tours hourly. It is closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. ☎ 540-984-8699, or visit www.shentel.net/shenvine.

**North Mountain Vineyard & Winery**, 4374 Swartz Road in Maurentown, north of the town of Woodstock, is within view of North Mountain. Modeled after the wineries of Europe, North Mountain Vineyards produces Chardonnay, Vidal-Riesling, Chambourcin, Claret and spiced apple wines. ☎ 540-436-9463 for a schedule of tours and tastings, or visit www.valleylife.net/northmountain.

**Guilford Ridge Vineyard**, 328 Running Pine Road in Luray, sits on four acres of rich Blue Ridge soil. Estate-bottled wines made with Bordelais methods include Red Page Valley, et Delilah (a light red), Caboose and Pinnacles (whites) and Bel Canto. There are picnic facilities for private events. Reservations are required for tours and tastings, and groups must have a minimum of eight people. ☎ 540-778-3853 for reservations and directions.

## *Dining*

A good meal in Shenandoah and Page Counties often means dining in an unconventional setting. Whether it is a restored home or an old mill, a former stagecoach inn or a farmhouses-turned public house, restaurants serve up a bit of character with their dishes. You'll find all the major chain restaurants clustered around exits for I-81. Over the mountain to Edinburg, Strasburg and Woodstock, one-of-a-kind destinations await discovery. We've listed a sampling. For a complete list of restaurants, call the **Shenandoah Valley Travel Association** at ☎ 540-740-3132.

The **Hotel Strasburg**, 213 S. Holiday Street, ☎ 540-465-9191, occupies an 1895 restored Victorian mansion. The chef prepares daily specials for lunch and dinner, and meals are served with the charm and romanticism of turn-of-the-century Virginia.

**The Valley Inn**, 9400 Congress Street, New Market, ☎ 540-740-8900, serves lunch Tuesday through Saturday in an Italianate Victorian house decorated with antiques and collectibles. The fare is traditional Southern cooking, served in three dining rooms. There is also a gift shop.

**Lottie Kelso's**, 9403 Congress Street, New Market, ☎ 540-740-3664, is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner, serving up good Southern cooking. Closed on Wednesday.

**Post Cards Steak & Seafood Restaurant**, at the Ramada Inn-Woodstock, ☎ 540-459-5000, is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner and serves a great prime rib.

**The Spring House**, 325 S. Main Street in Woodstock, ☎ 540-459-4755, serves lunch and dinner daily. There are five dining rooms with antique decorations and collectibles. Expect a warm atmosphere and a unique menu, including the restaurants famous homemade walnut rolls. Virginia wines served.

## *Accommodations*

Despite its rural character, there are plenty of national chain hotels and motels in Shenandoah and Page Counties. Most are clustered in the New Market and Luray areas – 24 inns, hotels and motels in Luray alone – near exits for I-81, the major north-south route. If you're headed for one of the resorts at Massanutten or Basye, be sure to inquire about townhome rentals. Below is a list of some major hotels. For a complete list, contact the **Shenandoah Valley Travel Association** at ☎ 540-740-3132.

Most establishments offer both handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms, but be sure to ask when making reservations.

### *Hotels & Motels*

**Best Western Mount Jackson**, on Route 11 at Exit 273 off I-81, ☎ 800-528-1234, has 98 guest rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. There's a restaurant next door, and the hotel is convenient to caverns, golfing, battlefields and shopping. Ski and golf packages are available. $$

**Budget Host Inn**, on Route 11 south of Woodstock, ☎ 540-459-4086, has 43 guest rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. There is a full-service restaurant, swimming pool and rooms are air conditioned. Pets are allowed. $-$$

**Hotel Strasburg**, 213 Holiday Street in Strasburg, ☎ 540-465-9191, has 29 guest rooms housed in a turn-of-the-century Victorian restoration. Rooms are decked with antiques and each room has a hot tub. There are three dining rooms, conference and banquet facilities. $$-$$$.

**Quality Inn-Shenandoah Valley**, at Exit 264 off I-81, ☎ 540-740-3141, has 101 air-conditioned guest rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. There is a pool and a restaurant. Picnic tables, a miniature golf course, and a playground are available for guest use. $$-$$$

**Ramada Inn**, at Exit 283 off I-81, ☎ 540-459-5000, has 124 guest rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. There is an outdoor pool and a full-service restaurant, called Postcards, with specialties that include prime rib and seafood. Discounts are available for senior citizens. $$

## *Bed & Breakfasts / Inns*

**Azalea House**, 551 S. Main Street in Woodstock, ☎ 540-459-3500, is a 100-year-old Victorian mansion made even more striking by the countless azaleas blooming every spring and summer. A full breakfast is served. Visit www.azaleahouse.com for more information. $$

**The Widow Kip's**, 355 Orchard Drive in Mount Jackson, ☎ 540-477-2400 or 800-478-8714, is an 1830 home set on seven acres, chock full of antiques in six guest bedrooms and two cottages, one of which has a kitchen. Rooms have a private bath. There is a swimming pool, and the inn rents bicycles for guests. Children and pets are permitted in the guest cottage. Visit www.widowkips.com for more information. $$

**Cross Roads Inn**, 9222 John Sevier Road in New Market, ☎ 540-740-4157, is a white clapboard Victorian home that serves up Austrian hospitality with imported coffee and homemade strudel. There are five guest rooms, each with a private bath. Visit www.crossroadsinnva.com for more information. $$

**Shenandoah River Inn**, 201 Stagecoach Lane in Luray, ☎ 540-743-1144, is an 1812 Colonial-era stagecoach inn with three guest rooms, each with a private bath. Perched on four acres on the wide Shenandoah River, visitors have a front-row seat to the Blue Ridge Mountains rising across the river. Cabins are available. Children and pets are not allowed. $$$

**River'd Inn**, 1972 Artz Road in Woodstock, ☎ 540-459-5369 or 800-637-4561, is a larger bed and breakfast with eight rooms, all with private baths, on a secluded 25-acre tract along the Shenandoah River. Guest rooms have a fireplace and hot tub. There is a full bar, a great room with fireplace, meeting facilities for up to 35 people and a restaurant. Children over 12 are welcome, but pets are not allowed. Visit www.riverdinn.com for more information. $$-$$$

**The Inn at Narrow Passage**, on Chapman Landing Road off Route 11 in Woodstock, ☎ 800-459-8002, is a restored Colonial inn that has been welcoming guests for 250 years. There are 12 guest rooms, each with a private bath. Rooms in the older, 1740-era section of the inn retain the feel of the Colonial past with pine floors and stenciling. Newer rooms open onto porches overlooking the Shenandoah River. Most rooms have air conditioning, queen-size bed and a fireplace. www.innatnarrowpassage.com. $$-$$$

## *Campgrounds*

**Creekside Campground**, on the banks of Stoney Creek in Edinburg, two miles off I-81, ☎ 540-984-4299, has 30 campsites for RVs, tents and trailers. There are hot showers, full hookups for RVs, and a dump station. Pets are welcome.

**Orkney Springs Campground**, on Route 610 in Orkney, ☎ 540-856-2585, has tent and trailer sites, a laundry, recreation hall, playground and is close to area golf and skiing attractions.

## *Information*

Learn more about attractions in Luray and Page Counties by contacting the **Luray-Page County Chamber of Commerce**, 46 E. Main Street, Luray, VA, 22835, ☎ 888-743-3915. Information on the sights, restaurants and lodging in Shenandoah County can be found at the **Shenandoah County Travel Council**, PO Box 802, Woodstock, VA, 22664, ☎ 540-459-2332.

For region-wide travel information, contact the **Shenandoah Valley Travel Association**, PO Box 1040, New Market, VA, 22844, ☎ 540-740-3132. Their offices are located at Exit 264 off I-81.

The **Massanutten Visitors Center** stands atop Massanutten Mountain, halfway between Luray and New Market on Route 211, and is a good resource for people interested in exploring the George Washington National Forest. ☎ 540-740-8310.

# Roanoke, Roanoke County & Salem

Roanoke, capital of the Blue Ridge since the days when settlers came westward, has become the focal point of Western Virginia. The city, which began as a salt marsh named "Big Lick" and later became a booming railroad town, is now a major vacation destination.

Nestled in the midst of a rich Appalachian heritage in the heart of the mountainous west, the Roanoke Valley is a great place to discover Virginia. Just a short drive from the city, you will find a number of interesting and historical attractions, including Civil War battlefields, pioneer living at Virginia's Explore Park, and the majestic views off the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Roanoke was incorporated in 1882 when it became a junction of the Norfolk and Western Railway and the Shenandoah Valley Railroad. Nicknamed the Star City, it remains the cultural, convention and industrial center for western Virginia. The 88-foot tall, neon-lit star that overlooks the city from a perch atop Mill Mountain, remains a landmark for the entire region.

A visit to the Roanoke Valley with its nearby areas of natural scenic beauty can provide a natural high. There are a number of invigorating recreational options that include bicycling along the Blue Ridge Parkway,

hiking the great Appalachian Trail and a variety of smaller but no less rewarding local trails.

For the shopper, Roanoke is a haven of antique stores, tiny gift shops, arts and craft outlets and a couple of hundred specialty stores that offer everything from fresh vegetables to the finest in haute couture.

## *Sights*

The **Harrison Museum of African-American Culture**, 523 Harrison Avenue in Roanoke, is dedicated to preserving, documenting and presenting African-American art and history of western Virginia. The museum is located on the ground floor of the first black public high school in western Virginia and is open daily except Monday. Admission is free. ☎ 540-345-4818.

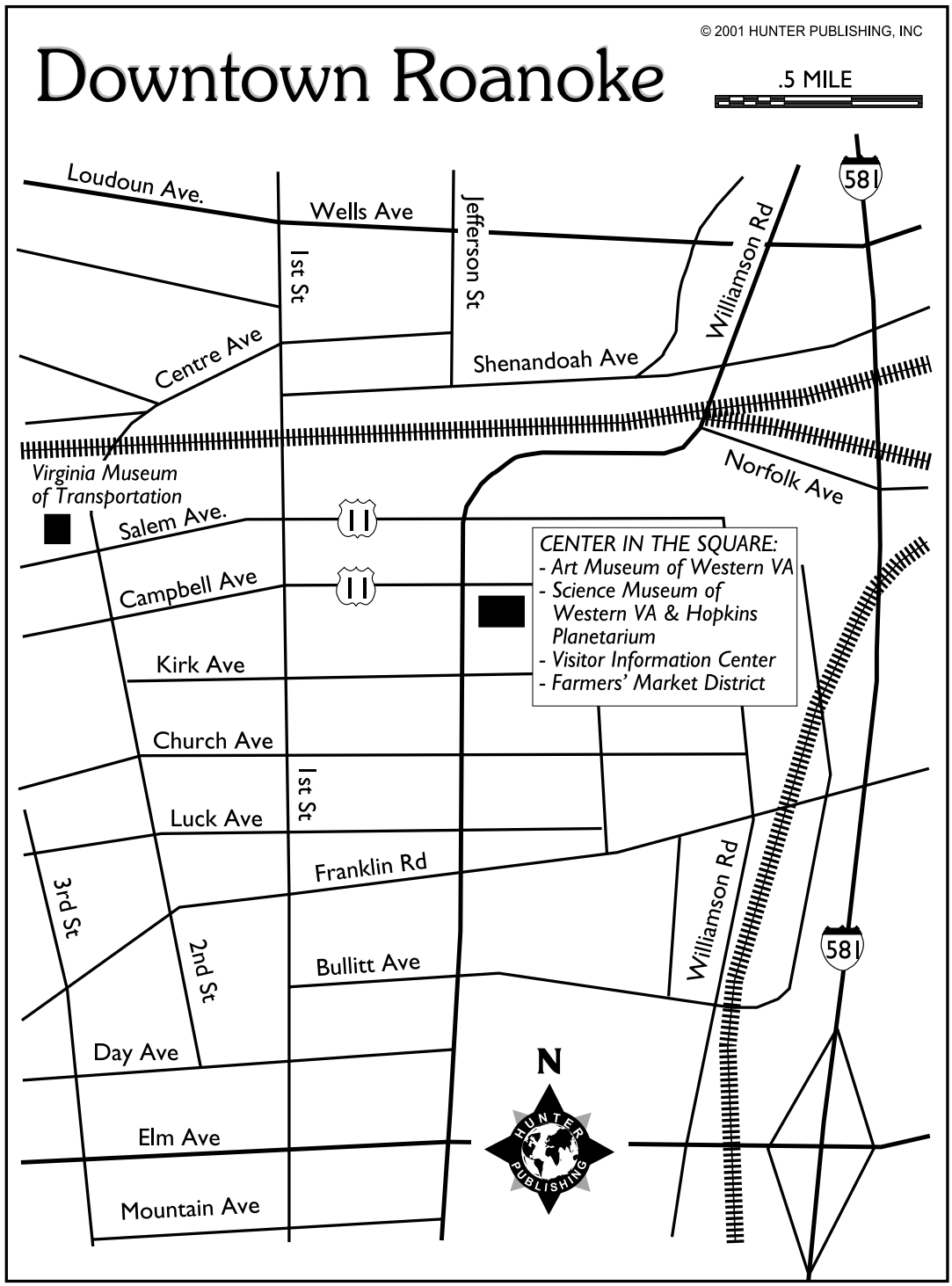
The **Virginia Museum of Transportation**, 303 Norfolk Avenue in the downtown district of Roanoke, displays vehicles from the past and present, including large steam, diesel and electric locomotives. Other exhibits include vintage cars and carriages, aviation and a large model train exhibit with 600 feet of track and seven model trains. The museum, located in a restored railway freight station next to the Norfolk Southern main track line, is open daily (closed Monday in January and February). ☎ 540-342-5670.

The **Science Museum of Western Virginia**, located at the Center in the Square at One Market Square in downtown Roanoke, provides a number of hands-on exhibits that interpret the natural and physical sciences. These exhibits include animals of the land and oceans, computers and a television weather station. The museum offers a number of workshops and programs for children and adults, as well as special exhibits, shows and films. The **Hopkins Planetarium** shows films interpreting the night sky in their mega-dome. The museum is open daily except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. ☎ 540-342-5710.

The **History Museum of Western Virginia**, in the Center in the Square at One Market Square, Roanoke, contains a number of permanent exhibits that interpret Roanoke's history from the earliest times until the present. The museum is open daily except Monday, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. ☎ 540-342-5770.

The **Art Museum of Western Virginia**, in the Center in the Square complex, Roanoke, hosts major national touring exhibits and work by local artists. The Rosalie K. and Sydney Shaftman Gallery is dedicated to traditional and contemporary decorative arts. Open Tuesday through Sunday. Admission is free. ☎ 540-342-5760.

**Mill Mountain Zoo**, a short drive from downtown Roanoke and off the Blue Ridge Parkway at Milepost 120, next to **Mill Mountain Park**, exhibits 50 plus exotic and native animals on 3½ acres of mountaintop




country. A Siberian tiger, red pandas, golden-lion tamarins and snow leopards are among the zoo's prize species. Special events throughout the year celebrate conservation and animals. Closed Christmas Day. ☎ 540-343-3241, or visit www.mmzoo.org.

**To The Rescue Museum**, on the upper level of Tanglewood Mall on Electric Road (US 220), commemorates the work of Julian Stanley Wise, who formed America's first rescue and first-aid crew in the Roanoke region in the 1920s. Visitor can participate in a life-saving scenario and

view equipment used by today's emergency workers. Open Tuesday through Sunday and closed on major holidays. ☎ 540-776-0364.

**The Blue Ridge Parkway** links the Shenandoah National Park and the Great Smokies National Park in Tennessee via 469 miles of pristine highway. En route, it passes Roanoke at Milepost 120. Numerous hiking trails intersect with the parkway, including the renowned **Appalachian Trail**, and there are countless scenic viewing areas. There are some food and lodging stops off the parkway. ☎ 540-857-2213.

**The Salem Museum**, 801 E. Main Street in Salem, preserves relics of this small city's past. Housed in the historic Williams-Brown House, its exhibits include Civil War memorabilia, Native American artifacts, as well as photography and art. Open Tuesday through Saturday. Admission is free. Guided tours are available. ☎ 540-389-6760, or visit www.salemmuseum.org.

Roanoke's **Historic Farmer's Market**, on First Street next door to Center in the Square, is a crowded market flush with fresh fruits and vegetables operating Monday through Saturday from 7:40 a.m. to 5 p.m. Besides produce, shoppers can browse specialty shops, antique stores, bookstores and gardening displays. Running since 1882, this market is Virginia's oldest farmer's market in continuous operation. ☎ 540-342-2028.

**Dixie Caverns**, 5753 Main Street in Salem, offers a twist on the tried-and-true caving experience. This cavern goes *up* into a mountain, opens onto a large cathedral room and leads further still to interesting rock formations. There's a pottery shop, rock and mineral shop, basket shop and an antique mall. Open year-round. ☎ 540-380-2085.

**Blue Ridge Institute and Farm Museum**, at Ferrum College in Ferrum, is the official State Center for Blue Ridge Folklore, housing a vast collection of mountain crafts, music and other items relating to Blue Ridge culture. Also on site is a re-created 18th-century farmhouse highlighting the German-American roots of Blue Ridge culture. Gallery admission is free. ☎ 540-365-4416, or visit www.blueridgeinstitute.org.

**Virginia's Explore Park**, ☎ 800-842-9163, is 1½ miles off the Blue Ridge Parkway at Milepost 115. The park exhibits life in Virginia from the 1671 to 1850, with interpreters performing skills such as flint knapping, log hewing and blacksmithing. Nearby, Brugh Tavern serves an authentic 19th-century meal. The mountain setting and 1,100 acres of park are ideal for a hike or bike ride. Visit their Web site at www.explorepark.org.

# Recreation

## Water Sports

**Smith Mountain Lake**, west of Roanoke on VA 24, covers 22,000 acres and 500 miles of shoreline. This 40-mile long lake is ideal for fishing and boating, water-skiing and windsurfing. Onshore, you can sunbathe, picnic or camp. ☎ 540-721-1203.

**Appalachian Adventures**, **Inc.**, 1122 Wasena Avenue, ☎ 540-342-2858, will take individuals and groups on canoeing trips down the rivers of southwest Virginia. Groups should give two weeks notice for reservations. Guests are served a boxed lunch. Visit www.zip2.com/roanoke/adventure.

## Golf

Six of Roanoke Valley's golf courses have joined with area hotels to offer enticing golf/vacation packages. From tee times to car rentals to room reservations, a single telephone call can net you a great golf trip. Special rates for golf and lodging are available only by calling ☎ 877-GOLF-MTN. Participating golf courses include: **Ashley Plantation**, the Valley's newest residential golf community, **Countryside**, minutes from downtown Roanoke, **Draper Valley**, regarded as one of the best conditioned courses in the Valley, **Hanging Rock**, ranked one of the top three courses in Virginia by *The Golfer's Guide*, **London Downs**, located in historic Bedford County, and **Westlake**, on the shores of Smith Mountain Lake.

When the golf game is over, you can look forward to a good meal, some entertainment and quality rest at one of 10 area hotels. Participating hotels include **Best Western Inn at Valley View** near the Roanoke Regional Airport, **Clarion Hotel Roanoke Airport**, **Comfort Suites: The Inn at Ridgewood Farms**, located in nearby Salem, **Country Inn & Suites by Carlson**, a bed and breakfast style motel, **Holiday Inn Roanoke Airport**, **Holiday Inn Hotel Tanglewood**, located in southwest Roanoke, **The Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center**, a Tudor-style hotel in the heart of downtown, **The Patrick Henry Hotel**, in downtown Roanoke, **Sleep-Inn Tanglewood**, near Tanglewood Mall, and the **Wyndham Roanoke Airport**.

# Entertainment

**The Center in the Square**, at One Market Square in downtown Roanoke, is a unique facility housing seven independent cultural organizations under one roof. **The Mill Mountain Theatre** brings professional theater to the Center in the Square. A year-round professional playbill offering a variety of dramas, musicals and comedies, as well as lectures and dance. **Theatre B**, located on Level 1 in the Center in the Square, pro-

vides a second venue for the performing arts. Also at the Center in the Square are **The Arts Council of the Blue Ridge** and the **Art Museum of Western Virginia**. Admission to both is free. For schedules, reservations and information, ☎ 540-342-5700, or visit www.cits.org.

**The Roanoke Express** plays championship minor league hockey at the Roanoke Civic Center from late-fall through spring. For schedule and ticket information, ☎ 540-989-4625.

**The Salem Avalanche**, an A-level minor league team affiliated with the Colorado Rockies of Major League Baseball, plays home games at Salem Memorial Baseball Stadium. For schedule and ticket information, ☎ 540-389-3333.

## *Shopping*

Large department stores and flagship units of leading regional retailers have been joined by a number of fascinating shops that provide exciting opportunities for antique shopping and browsing. More than 130 retailers, specialty shops, boutiques and stores call downtown Roanoke home. Travel farther afield, to Salem, Vinton and Rocky Mount, and discover a wealth of antique boutiques and specialty shops. Listed below are a sampling of Roanoke's larger shopping centers.

**Valley View Mall**, on Valley View Boulevard off I-581 at Hershberger Road, is the largest mall in southwest Virginia, with 130 stores, restaurants and a six-screen cinema. Department stores include Belk, Sears, Hecht's and JC Penney. ☎ 540-563-4400 or visit www.valleyview.com for more information.

**Crossroads Mall**, at the corner of Hershberger and Williamson Roads, and **Towne Square**, located behind Crossroads, mix specialty shops and big box retailers such as Sam's Wholesale Discount Club and Office Max Crossroads recently opened **Cinema Grill**, a two-screen cinema and sit-down restaurant.

**Tanglewood Mall**, at Route 220 and 419 on Electric Road, was Roanoke's first regional mall. Today, 105 stores and eight restaurants do business in the two-story shopping center. Inside the mall's center court, antique vendors and mountain crafters display themed exhibits. ☎ 540-989-4394 or visit www.tanglewood.com for more information.

**Towers Shopping Center**, at the corner of Colonial and Brandon Avenues, is a full-service shopping center with more than 50 stores, restaurants, services and specialty shops. ☎ 540-982-6791.

## Galleries

**Frames 'N Things & The Gallery**, in Roanoke on Brambleton Avenue, and in **Vinton**, 1223 E. Washington Avenue. Besides custom framing, the galleries are distributors for David Winters collectibles. ☎ 540-774-8171.

The **League of Roanoke Artists** sponsors monthly showing of regional artists' work at the Lewis-Gale Medical Center and Roanoke Memorial Cancer Center. ☎ 540-774-4904.

**The Little Gallery**, 16430 Booker T. Washington Memorial Highway in Moneta near Smith Mountain Lake, ☎ 540-721-1596, displays original art and prints, museum-quality crafts, framing and corporate art.

**McMann-McDade Fine Art**, in Roanoke, ☎ 540-345-5123, specializes in work by regional southwest Virginia artists in a multitude of media, including serigraphs, oils and watercolors.

**Olde Salem Framing & Gallery**, 210 E. Main Street in Salem, ☎ 540-389-4553, features Don Hatfield serigraphs, Eric Fitzpatrick originals and prints.

**White House Galleries**, 1302 Second Street, ☎ 540-344-9600, features oils, watercolors, engravings, serigraphs and art restoration.

## Theater

**Henry Street Players** presents a historical revue of downtown Roanoke in the jazz age. Duke Ellington, Count Basie and Ella Fitzgerald were once regulars at Henry Street night clubs. The players perform at various locations around Roanoke. ☎ 540-981-9110 for a listing of performances and locations.

**Mill Mountain Theatre**, in Center in the Square, is regional professional theater that produces a variety of shows throughout the year. Drama's, musicals, children's plays and comedies are all on the playbill. Free to the public are monthly readings of new one-act plays. ☎ 540-342-5740 for ticket information, or visit www.millmountain.org.

**Showtimers Theater**, off Route 419 across from Allstate, ☎ 540-774-2660, is the oldest continuously performing community theater in Virginia.

## Annual Events

The **Roanoke Festival in the Park** occurs over 11 days during May and June, when Roanoke celebrates arts and crafts, sports, food and live entertainment. Other area activities include **First Night Roanoke** in De-

cember, **ShrimpFest** in April and an **International Wine Tasting & Tour** in February. ☎ 540-342-2640.

The **Annual Vinton Dogwood Festival** in downtown Vinton has been a springtime tradition for 45 years in the Roanoke Valley. ☎ 540-983-0613.

**The Virginia State Championship Chili Cookoff**, held in Roanoke on the first Saturday in May, is a statewide event culminating in the award to the champion. ☎ 540-344-0876.

**The Salem Fair and Exposition** at the Salem Civic Center Complex, 1001 Roanoke Boulevard, is Virginia's largest free-admission fair. It is held in July. ☎ 540-375-4013, or visit www.salem-va.com/fair.

Roanoke's annual **Henry Street Heritage Festival** kicks off every September in conjunction with the Harrison Museum of African-American Culture. ☎ 540-348-4818.

**Taste of the Blue Ridge Blues & Jazz Festival**, at Elmwood Park in Roanoke, welcomes regional artists and national performing acts for a foot-tappin' good time. Held in September. ☎ 540-853-2889.

The **Annual Lighting of the Christmas Tree** takes place in Roanoke during early December. Call the City of Roanoke at ☎ 540-853-2000.

The **Annual Christmas Parade** through downtown Roanoke is held the first week in December. ☎ 540-342-2028.

A **Dickens of a Christmas** takes place in downtown Roanoke on the first, second and third Friday evenings of December. ☎ 540-342-2028.

## *Dining*

Roanoke has more than 60 restaurants, many of them offering live entertainment. Those listed below offer especially good value and service.

**Alexander's**, 105 S. Jefferson Avenue, ☎ 540-342-3937, offers visitors a fine dining experience from its gourmet menu. Open Wednesday for lunch; dinner served Tuesday through Saturday.

**Billy's Ritz**, on the first floor at 102 Salem Avenue, ☎ 540-342-3937, is open for dinner, with a casual but elegant atmosphere in five dining rooms, including an open-air courtyard. Specialties of the house include steaks, chops, chicken and grilled fish.

**Carlos Brazilian International**, 312 Market Street, ☎ 540-345-7661, is open for lunch and dinner, serving Brazilian and international cuisine. Dress is casual. Closed on Sundays and major holidays.

**The Library**, 3117 Franklin Road in the Piccadilly Square shopping center, ☎ 540-985-0811, is a fine restaurant for a candlelight meal. The menu

is American- and European-influenced, and the dress code is casual. Closed on Sunday, Monday, and major holidays.

**Montano's International Gourmet**, 3733 Franklin Road in the Townside Festival Mall, ☎ 540-344-8960, serves an eclectic mix of food, and features great wine and tiramisu, the rich Italian dessert. In the evening, the smooth sounds of live jazz entertain diners. In the afternoons, this restaurant-delicatessen is popular with the business crowd. Children's menus and carryout are available. Closed on Christmas, New Year's and the day before Thanksgiving.

**Norberto's**, 1908 Memorial Avenue, ☎ 540-342-1611, features traditional Italian fare.

**Corned Beef & Co., Inc.**, 107 South Jefferson Street, ☎ 540-342-3354, is one of Roanoke's hottest night spots for live entertainment, featuring jazz, rhythm & blues and reggae. The restaurant is famous for its overstuffed sandwiches, aged hand-cut steaks, soups, salads and fresh grilled seafood. There is outdoor patio seating, pool tables and shuffleboard.

**309 First Street Fine Food & Drink**, 309 Market Street, ☎ 540-343-0179, is known for its gourmet hamburgers and homemade onion rings. If you're wondering about the address, Market Street used to be called First Street and the restaurant kept their name! Open for lunch and dinner, it has consistently been voted Best Market Area Restaurant and Best Pre-Theatre Dinner by readers of the *Roanoker Magazine*.

**The Roanoke Market Building**, 32 Market Square in downtown Roanoke, was built in 1922 and once served as the place to meet and greet in Roanoke. Today, it houses a diverse sampling of lunch counters and ethnic restaurants. Great for a quick bite to eat.

**Mill Mountain Coffee & Tea**, 112 Campbell Avenue, ☎ 540-342-9404, specializes in dessert delicacies and a variety of coffees.

## *Accommodations*

Most establishments offer both handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms, but be sure to ask when making reservations.

### *Hotels & Motels*

There is no shortage of places to say in and around Roanoke – the region's 30-plus hotels and motels have more than 4,800 rooms. Whether you need a convenient, no-nonsense evening's rest or the comfort and pampering of a luxury hotel, area hostelries offer something for all travelers. Listed below are a sampling. For more complete list, call the **Roanoke Valley Visitor Information Center** at ☎ 800-635-5535.

**Baymont Inn**, 140 Sheraton Drive in Salem, ☎ 540-562-2717, has 68 guest rooms. There are Jacuzzis in the rooms, as well as coffee makers. A continental breakfast is delivered to the room. $-$$

**Best Western Inn at Valley View**, 5050 Valley View Boulevard, ☎ 540-362-2400, has 85 guest rooms, all equipped with in-room coffee makers and hair dryers. There is an indoor pool. $$

**The Clarion Hotel Roanoke Airport**, 2727 Ferndale Drive, ☎ 540-362-4500, has 154 guest rooms. Amenities include a full-service restaurant and café, bar, meeting rooms and swimming pool. Free airport transportation; senior citizen discount. $$-$$$

**The Colony House Motor Lodge**, 3560 Franklin Road, ☎ 540-345-0411, has 69 guest rooms. There is a meeting room and a swimming pool. Free continental breakfast and a senior citizen discount are offered. $$

**Comfort Suites: The Inn at Ridgewood Farms**, 2898 Keagy Road in Salem, ☎ 540-375-4800, has 78 guest rooms, and offers an outdoor pool and a fitness center. Continental breakfast is served. $$-$$$

**Country Inn & Suites By Carlson**, 7860 Plantation Road, ☎ 540-366-5678, is a small hotel with 43 guest rooms and suites. The hotel has an indoor pool and serves a complimentary continental breakfast. $$-$$$

**Days Inn Civic Center**, 535 Orange Avenue, ☎ 540-342-4551, has 165 guest rooms. Continental breakfast is served and pets are allowed. $$

**Hampton Inn Airport**, 6621 Thirlane Road, ☎ 540-265-2600, has 79 guest rooms. Each room is equipped with a small refrigerator and a VCR. $$

**Hampton Inn Salem**, 1886 Electric Road in Salem, ☎ 540-776-6500, is a large hotel with 114 guest rooms. Each room is equipped with a small refrigerator, VCR, coffee maker, hair dryer and ironing board. $$

**Holiday Inn-Tanglewood**, 4468 Starkey Road, ☎ 540-774-4400, has 196 guest rooms. There is a restaurant and café, a bar, meeting rooms and a swimming pool with poolside service. There's also a concierge level where guests have access to a private lounge, a free continental breakfast and complimentary refreshments. The management allows pets, provides free airport transportation, and offers a senior citizen discount. $$-$$$

**The Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center**, 110 Shenandoah Avenue, ☎ 540-985-5900, has 332 guest rooms and occupies a sprawling 19th-century building listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Regency dining room features a gourmet menu and daily specials. There is also a conference center. $$

The **Howard Johnson Express-Airport**, 3695 Thirlane Road, ☎ 540-563-0229, has 138 guest rooms. There is an outdoor pool, fitness facilities

and the hotel offers shuttle service to nearby restaurants and shopping. $$

**The Jefferson Lodge**, 616 S. Jefferson Street, ☎ 540-342-2951, is a medium-sized hotel with 98 guest rooms. Facilities and services provided by the hotel include a swimming pool with poolside service and a café nearby. The hotel provides free airport transportation and complimentary continental breakfast. Senior citizen discount. $

**The Patrick Henry Hotel**, 617 S. Jefferson Street, ☎ 540-345-8811, has 117 units. The hotel has a full-service restaurant and café, a bar, several meeting rooms and a beauty shop. It also offers free airport transportation, health club privileges, and a senior citizen discount. $$-$$$

**Quality Inn-Civic Center**, 501 Orange Avenue at Williamson Road, ☎ 540-342-8961, is a fairly large hotel with 150 guest rooms. Facilities include a full-service restaurant and café, a bar, meeting rooms and a swimming pool. Pets are permitted in the guest rooms. Free airport transportation. Senior citizen discount. $$

**Ramada Inn River's Edge**, 1927 Franklin Road, ☎ 540-343-0121, has 126 guest rooms. There are fitness facilities, an outdoor pool, and a restaurant and lounge. Continental breakfast is served. $$

**Wyndham Roanoke Airport**, 2801 Hershberger Road, ☎ 540-563-9300, is a large luxury hotel with 320 guest rooms. Facilities include a full-service restaurant and café, a bar, meeting rooms and a swimming pool with poolside service. There's also a luxury level where guests have access to a private lounge, a free continental breakfast and complimentary refreshments. The management allows pets, provides free airport transportation, and offers a senior citizen discount. $$-$$$

## *Bed & Breakfasts / Inns*

Warm country inns, stately turn-of-the century mansions and old farms-turned-secluded country retreats await visitors to the Roanoke region. There are more than 24 inns, lodges, and cottages sprinkled throughout the Valley, some a short drive to downtown Roanoke, others more remote, tucked in the vales and hollows of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Listed below is a sampling. For a more complete list, call the **Roanoke Valley Visitor Information Center**, ☎ 800-635-5535.

The **Maridor Bed & Breakfast**, 1857 Grandin Road, ☎ 540-982-1940 or 800-631-1857, offers privacy and intimacy with two guest rooms and two suites, each with private bath. A short drive to downtown or the Blue Ridge Parkway, the inn can accommodate up to 200 guests in its ballroom facilities. $$-$$$

In Salem, the **Inn at Burwell Place**, 601 W. Main Street, ☎ 540-387-0250, serves up elegant fare and home-baked goods, and pampers guests with complimentary robes and slippers, custom European bedspreads

and down comforters. It has two guest rooms and two guest suites, each with a private bath. The inn's 77-foot veranda overlooks the Blue Ridge Mountains. Visit www.burwellplace.com for more information. $$-$$$

**Crosstrails Bed & Breakfast**, 5880 Blacksburg Road, ☎ 540-384-8078, is a mountain getaway tucked in the Catawba Valley west of Roanoke. There are three guest rooms, including a secluded carriage house bedroom. All rooms have private baths. Visit www.crosstrails.com for more information. $$

**Meadowood Bed & Breakfast**, 6235 Buffalo Mountain Road, Milepost 174.5 (an hour south of Roanoke on the Blue Ridge Parkway), ☎ 540-593-2600, has three spacious guest rooms, each with a private bath. The mountain estate's great room has a stone fireplace and serves a full country breakfast. Outdoors, 20 acres of mountain meadows unfold from the inn's 60-foot front porch. $$

**The Olde Manse**, 530 E. Main Street in Salem, ☎ 540-389-3921, offers two guest rooms in an 1847 home that is listed on the National Historic Register and chock full of antiques. Innkeepers serve a full Southern breakfast. $$

**Walnuthill Bed & Breakfast**, 436 Walnut Avenue, ☎ 540-427-3312, is just five minutes from either the Blue Ridge Parkway or downtown Roanoke. Features three guest rooms, a gourmet breakfast and European charm and elegance. $$

## *Camping*

Bordered by the Blue Ridge Mountain to the east and the Allegheny Mountains to the west, the Roanoke Valley offers many camping opportunities. The **George Washington and Jefferson National Forests**, ☎ 540-265-5100, have several developed recreation and tent camping areas, as well as a multitude of backcountry camping sites. **Dixie Caverns** in Salem, ☎ 540-380-2085, has 75 tent sites and 56 trailer sites with hook-ups for RVs and guest showers. The **Peaks of Otter Campground**, on the Blue Ridge Parkway at Milepost 86, ☎ 540-586-4357, is open May to November, with 86 tent sites and 59 trailer sites. Handicapped-accessible campsites are available. At **Roanoke Mountain Campground**, off the Blue Ridge Parkway at Milepost 120.5, ☎ 540-982-9242, there are 74 tent sites and 30 trailer sites, including some that are handicapped-accessible. The **Rocky Knob Campground**, on the Blue Ridge Parkway at Milepost 167.1, ☎ 540-745-9664, has 81 tent sites and 28 trailer sites. **Smith Mountain Lake Campground**, on Route 1 in Huddleston, ☎ 540-297-6066, has 26 tent sites and 24 trailer sites.

## *Transportation*

**Roanoke Regional Airport** provides service by most major and regional carriers with direct flights to many cities and connecting flights to all major domestic and international destinations. ☎ 540-362-1999 to reach the airport business office. **Greyhound Lines, Inc.** serves Roanoke as well.

## *Information*

For more information about the Roanoke Valley, including directions, points of interest, brochures, maps and lodging assistance, contact the **Roanoke Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau**, 114 Market Street, Roanoke, VA 24011-1402, ☎ 800-635-5535. Check their Web site at www.VisitRoanokeVA.com for more information.

The **Salem Visitor's Center**, 1001 Roanoke Boulevard, contains brochures, trip planners and information on the sights in this quaint city southwest of Roanoke. ☎ 540-375-4044 or 888-VA-SALEM, or visit www.salem-va.com.

Information on businesses, lodging and recreation around Smith Mountain Lake is available at the **Smith Mountain Lake Chamber of Commerce**, in the Bridgewater Plaza on Route 122 in Moneta; ☎ 540-721-1203 or 800-676-8203, www.sml-chamber.com.

# Staunton & Augusta County

Smack dab in the heart of the Shenandoah Valley, stand **Staunton** and **Waynesboro**, two industrial cities whose close proximity belie very different histories.

Waynesboro, in the eastern portion of the county, was named for the Revolutionary War hero, "Mad Anthony" Wayne. It stands at the foot of Afton Mountain, on the west flank of the Blue Ridge. During the Civil War, Confederate troops made a final stand here, but succumbed to the superior numbers of the Northern army of General Philip Sheridan. The Yankees burned and pillaged the city after the rout.

Since then, Waynesboro has looked only forward. It welcomed industry and worked to preserve the links with its past. Today, the town's motto, "Hospitality in the Valley," is something shop owners in the downtown district and innkeepers at surrounding bed and breakfasts take seriously.

Staunton, about 20 miles west of Waynesboro, is one of the oldest cities in the Valley, founded in 1747. It was named for Lady Staunton, wife of the

Colonial governor. Significantly, it was spared the destruction visited upon Waynesboro during the Civil War.

Because of this, Staunton's five registered historic districts contain fine examples of period architecture. The **Wharf Area** has cobblestone sidewalks, old warehouses and a train station. In **Beverly**, classic turn-of-the-century homes have been painstakingly restored.

The First Augusta Parish Church was Staunton's only church for years, and for 17 days in the summer of 1781, it became the makeshift capital of Virginia. Then-Governor Thomas Jefferson and the General Assembly had come over the mountains from Richmond, fleeing advancing British troops.

Thanks to its strategic locale, Staunton became a major link between western communities and eastern markets. In Colonial times, the westbound Parkersburg Pike and the north-south Valley Pike intersected here, and the town welcomed the commerce they brought. Railroads replaced wagon roads with the arrival of the C&O Railroad.

Staunton and Waynesboro are conveniently located at the intersection of the region's two major interstates, 81 and 64. The ease in getting here is only heightened by both town's best efforts at preserving links to frontier culture, architecture and the arts.

## *Sights*

The hilly city of **Staunton** earned the nickname "Queen City" during the heyday of the Great Wagon Road, a trade route between the Blue Ridge and Allegheny Mountains. Wealthy merchants built three- and four-story Victorian mansions, complete with turrets and spires. Today, these buildings in the Gospel Hill historic district remain in remarkably good shape, thanks in no small part to the efforts of private citizens who've recognized their value. Antique dealers and entrepreneurs have reclaimed the city's Wharf historic district, with its old warehouses and cobblestone streets. These and three other National Historic Districts make for some interesting touring that can easily fill an afternoon.

The **Staunton Fire Department** on Augusta Street has on public display its first-ever motorized fire truck, nicknamed **Jumbo**, which the city bought in 1911. The engine is restored and in pristine condition.

The **Frontier Culture Museum**, on Route 250 West in Staunton, presents the four threads that form the fabric of Shenandoah Valley life: German, English, Scotch-Irish and American. Three farms, imported from Europe and reconstructed, are staffed by interpreters in period costume living as the original settlers – both in Europe and after they arrived in America. Seasonal events are held throughout the year. ☎ 540-332-7850 for information and a schedule of events, or visit www.frontier.va.us.

The **Statler Brothers Complex** on Thornrose Avenue in Staunton pays tribute to the country music singers, who are Staunton natives. Located in their old schoolhouse, the museum offers free tours at 2 p.m. on weekdays. They offer a review of the group's albums and accolades, which include three Grammy awards and 11 Country Music Association "Vocal Group of the Year" awards. There's a gift shop and plenty of music for sale. ☎ 540-885-7279 for days of operation and other information.

**Woodrow Wilson Birthplace and Museum**, 18-24 N. Coalter Street in the Gospel Hill section of Staunton, presents the life of the 28th President of the United States. He was born in this city, and the museum records his life achievements, from Princeton to the White House, where he ably guided the country through World War I. The gardens here are well-kept and Wilson's Pierce-Arrow limousine is as classic as antique cars come. ☎ 540-885-0897, or visit www.woodrowwilson.org.

The **Association of Virginia Artisans Fine Craft Gallery** 327 W. Main Street in Waynesboro, ☎ 540-943-9AVA, collects and displays works of art by the group's 250 members. Mediums include clay, fiber, glass, paper and wood.

**Hand's-On Science Activities For Children**, 601 Shenandoah Village Drive in the Waynesboro Outlet Village, lets children ages four to 12 cast life-size dinosaur claws and teeth, build birdhouses and finger paint. Interactive exhibits on solar energy, electric motors and body art are educational as well as fun. It is open from 10 a.m. to noon on the first and third Saturdays of each month. An admission is charged. ☎ 540-248-2236.

The **P. Buckley Moss Museum**, 2150 Rosser Avenue in Waynesboro, ☎ 540-949-6473, exhibits the work of Ms. Moss, a popular Virginia folk artist who draws inspiration for her work from Valley life, especially the Amish and Mennonite people.

**The Shenandoah Valley Arts Center**, 600 W. Main Street in Waynesboro, is both an artists' gallery and workshop. Whether it is painting, pottery or the performing arts, the center has a schedule of shows and classes that cover it all. The center also organizes the Fall Foliage Festival, Waynesboro's biggest annual festival. It is open Tuesday through Sunday. ☎ 540-949-7662.

**McDowell Battlefield**, in the town of McDowell, on Route 250 between Staunton and Monterey, preserves the site of Stonewall Jackson's first victory during the Valley Campaign of 1862, during the Civil War. The site is open daily and there is no admission. For a tour brochure, ☎ 540-468-2550.

## Day Trip: Highland County

**Highland County**, west of Staunton, encompasses a mountainous landscape of high ridges and deep valleys where, as locals are fond of noting, sheep seem to outnumber people. Located 45 miles west of I-81, it exists in a world all its own when it comes to scenery and recreation.

Nicknamed "Little Switzerland," Highland County's mean average elevation is higher than any municipality east of the Mississippi. It's population is the third smallest. The major east-west highway, Route 250, takes you from soaring views atop numerous ridgelines, down corkscrew-like routes, into sweeping valleys and through tows like Hightown, a wide spot in the road comprising of a few white buildings.

The town of **Monterey** (pop. 222) is the county seat and cultural center, with several craft and antique shops, and bed and breakfasts nearby. The Highland Arts Festival held in Monterey is one of the state's top cultural events. South of town are four-season resorts in Warm Springs and Hot Springs. The South Branch of the Potomac River flows through the region. Near the town of Blue Grass, some of the state's best trout fishing awaits anglers.

And what would a Virginia destination be without some kind of tie-in with the Civil War? Confederate General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson won the first victory of his Valley Campaign in 1862 at McDowell. The site is marked by an iron roadside marker.

For more information about shopping, recreation and places to sleep and eat, contact the Highland County Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 223, Monterey, VA, 24465, ☎ 540-468-2550.

# *Recreation*

## *Natural Areas*

**Mountain View Trails**, 2607 Mt. Torrey Road in Lyndhurst, eight miles south of Exit 96 off I-81, ☎ 540-949-5346, gives horseback riding lessons for beginners and advanced riders. Trail rides through the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains are guided. Horse lease programs are also available.

**Shenandoah National Park** and **Skyline Drive** begin atop Afton Mountain, a short drive east of Waynesboro on I-64. At Rockfish Gap, Skyline Drive begins its northward trek to Front Royal. The Blue Ridge Parkway heads south from this point to Tennessee. This southern section of Shenandoah National Park is considered more remote and less con-

gested than the central and northern regions. The **Appalachian Trail**, which winds its way through the park for 101 miles, is a great way to access the views, wildlife, plants and waterfalls that make the park so famous. The **Shenandoah Natural History Association**, ☎ 540-999-3582, is a reliable source of information on trails and history of the park. The **Waynesboro-East Augusta County Visitors Center**, located at Rockfish Gap on the southern entrance to Skyline Drive, holds a wealth of brochures and maps on the entire region.

**Highland Adventures** in the town of Monterey, 45 miles west of Staunton, ☎ 540-468-2772, specializes in mountain bike trips through the Allegheny Mountains and George Washington National Forest. Individuals and groups are both served. You can rent a bike, or bring your own and use the company's shuttle, mapping or guide services.

### *Golf*

**Ingleside Golf Course**, on US 11 west of I-81 at Exit 225, is an 18-hole, semi-private resort with championship, regular and women's tees. You must rent and ride a cart to play. ☎ 540-248-1201

**Gypsy Hill Golf Course**, on Route 250 west of Staunton, ☎ 540-332-3949, is an 18-hole public course in the rolling farmland of western Virginia. There are championship, regular and women's tees. You can walk or ride the 18 holes.

The **Country Club of Staunton**, on Belle's Lane west of I-81 at Exit 275, ☎ 540-248-7273, has 18 holes of championship golf in a private resort setting. Golf packages are available only to guests staying in the adjacent Holiday Inn.

## *Shopping*

**Virginia Metalcrafters**, 1010 E. Main Street in Waynesboro, ☎ 540-949-9432, produces an array of bronze, brass and iron gifts using methods and tools reminiscent of the pioneers of this trade. This is a factory showroom, where visitors can both shop and watch the molten metal poured into handmade sand molds.

The restored **C&O Train Station** houses an antique store, a restaurant and a model train dealer.

**The General Store-Waynesboro**, 601 Shenandoah Village Drive, across from the big red barn in the Waynesboro Village Outlets, ☎ 540-932-7599, is one of those classic junk stores jam-packed with antiques, furniture and glassware, filled with the smells of handmade goodies like fudge, jams and jellies. It is handicapped-accessible and the only admission fee is a smile! Closed on Wednesday and Sunday.

**Waynesboro Village Outlets**, on Rosser Avenue next door to the P. Buckley Moss Museum, ☎ 540-949-5000, holds more than 25 shops, restaurants and outlets in a setting reminiscent of the town during its founding days. It is pedestrian-friendly and open year-round. There is tourism information located near the entrance to the village.

## *Annual Events*

**The Fall Foliage Celebration** in Waynesboro fills the first two weekends of October with craft shows and other special events, including a 10K run, theater productions and a gem and mineral show. ☎ 540-949-8203.

**October Festival** is a family festival held in Staunton's Gypsy Hill Park each fall featuring arts, crafts, food, music and special events. Visit www.OctoberFestivalPark.net for more information, or ☎ 540-213-2027.

**Wintergreen Summer Music Festival** is held in July at this Blue Ridge ski center. Full symphony orchestra and chamber music are featured.

## *Dining*

**Belle Grae Inn**, 151 W. Frederick Street, Staunton. Fine dining in a Victorian mansion in Staunton's Newtown district, four blocks from downtown. Beef, pork, seafood and quail are some of the featured menu options. Dinner served Tuesday through Sunday, 6 to 9 p.m. ☎ 540-886-5151 for reservations.

**Buckhorn Inn**, Rt. 250 in Churchville. Set in a sprawling country farmhouse, the inn welcomes fine diners and casual hikers alike. Hand-carved meats, country vegetables and wonderful homemade sauces are among the specialties. It is 12 miles west of Staunton on Rt. 250. ☎ 540-337-6900.

**Cracker Barrel**, 1316 Jefferson Highway, Staunton. A large chain restaurant famous for its country-style cooking, from chicken and rice to meatloaf and prime rib. Located off I-81 at Exit 222. ☎ 540-885-7550.

**Depot Grille**, 12 Middlebrook Avenue, Staunton. Casual dining, with steak and seafood specialties. The restaurant is in Staunton's downtown train station, recognizable by two cabooses, yellow and red, out front. Open daily for lunch and dinner. ☎ 540-885-7332.

**Byers Street Bistro**, 18 Byers Street, Staunton. Located in the historic Warehouse Row section. Gourmet pizza, pasta, chicken, steaks and sandwiches. ☎ 540-886-4399.

**Kathy's Restaurant**, 705 Greenville Avenue, Staunton. A local restaurant boasting the best breakfast in Augusta County. Located at Greenville Avenue and Statler Boulevard in downtown. ☎ 540-885-4331.

**Pullman Restaurant**, 38 Middlebrook Avenue, Staunton. Fine dining in a casual atmosphere, set in Staunton's downtown train station. It is locally known for its fresh fried oysters, farm-raised rainbow trout encrusted in Georgia pecans, and hand-carved meats. It is at the very end of Augusta Street, at the opposite end from the Depot Grille. Open 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. on weekdays, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. on weekends. ☎ 540-886-6612.

**The Pampered Palate Café**, 26 E. Beverly Street, Staunton. Casual breakfast and European-style lunch, serving up sandwiches, soups, baked potatoes and dessert. The café also features a good selection of coffee, cappuccino and fresh-baked snacks. It is at the corner of Beverly and New Street. ☎ 540-886-9463.

**Purple Foot**, 1035 W. Broad Street in Waynesboro, serves lunch every day from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Besides a wide variety of sandwiches, this local eatery features crèpes and mixed vegetable pitas. Located next to the Willow Oak Shopping Center in downtown. ☎ 540-942-9463.

**South River Grille**, Rt. 340, Waynesboro. Meals at this large family-style restaurant come with a huge salad bar and healthy portions. It is off I-64, convenient to the P. Buckley Moss Museum. Lunch and dinner are served daily from 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. ☎ 540-942-5567.

## *Accommodations*

Most establishments offer both handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms, but be sure to ask when making reservations.

There are more than 35 hotels in the vicinity of Staunton and Waynesboro, from brand-name chains to roadside hotels. Many are only a few yards from Interstates 81 and 64, and convenient to the region's attractions. Others occupy old homes and buildings in the cities themselves. Below is a sampling of hotels. For a complete list, ☎ 540-332-3972.

### *Hotels & Motels*

**Comfort Inn**, adjacent to the Frontier Culture Museum on Route 250, ☎ 540-886-5000, has 98 guest rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. There are several restaurants nearby, as well as a swimming pool at the hotel. Pets are allowed. $$

**Shoney's Inn**, off Route 250 in Staunton, ☎ 540-885-3117, has 91 guest rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. Guests have the use of an indoor heated pool, a spa, exercise equipment, sauna and complimentary morning coffee. Commercial and group rates are offered, as well as discounts for senior citizens. $-$$

**Holiday Inn Staunton Golf & Conference Center**, on the Woodrow Wilson Parkway off I-81 at Exit 225 in Staunton, ☎ 800-648-3340, has 115 guest rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. The management will arrange golf and ski packages for guests. There is a restaurant and a pub on premise, and rooms have coffee makers. $$

**Inn at Afton**, located at the junction of Skyline Drive and the Blue Ridge Parkway atop Afton Mountain, ☎ 540-949-0800, has 118 guest rooms, some with great views of the mountains. Handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms are available. The inn's full-service lounge features live entertainment on weekends.

**The Frederick House**, 28 N. New Street in downtown Staunton, ☎ 540-885-4220, is a complex of five restored townhouses across from Mary Baldwin College, each with private bath and entrance. Rooms are furnished with period pieces. Terry-cloth robes are provided. A full breakfast is served. $$-$$$

## *Resorts*

**Wintergreen Resort**, on Route 664 off I-64 at Exit 99, ☎ 800-266-2444, is a four-season resort in the Blue Ridge Mountains east of Waynesboro. There's golfing, skiing, hiking and horseback riding for guests. $$$

**Endless Mountain Retreat Center** is located near Hightown in the Allegheny Mountains of Highland County, about 12 miles west of Monterey off US 250. With rooms and cabins to accommodate 16 people, the center specializes in family vacations and work-related retreats. ☎ 540-468-2700 for schedule and rate information. Or visit www.mountain-retreat.com.

## *Camping*

**Shenandoah Valley KOA** on Bald Rock Road in Staunton (Exit 227 off I-81), ☎ 540-248-2746 is a full-service campsite for tents and trailers, featuring Kamping Kabins for families and activities like tubing, swimming, fishing, sports and picnicking. And yes, you *can* pet the bunnies!

**Shenandoah Acres Resort**, PO Box 300VR, Stuarts Draft, VA 24477. Camping cabins for that rustic experience, plus comfortable cottages, condos, and motel rooms with kitchens and fireplaces. ☎ 540-337-1911 or 800-654-1714.

**Walnut Hills Campground**, on US 115, 1½ miles off Route 665, ☎ 540-337-3920, has full-service hookups for trailers and separate tent sites. There's a playground, cabin rentals, game room and laundry. Hayrides and live music are two special events held at the campground.

## *Transportation*

**Greyhound** provides bus transportation for the region. The station is on 1143 Richmond Road, ☎ 540-886-2424. **Amtrak**, at 1 Middlebrook Avenue, links the city with Washington DC, New York and Chicago. ☎ 800-872-7245.

The **Shenandoah Valley Airport**, located in Weyers Cave, 10 miles from Staunton, provides daily flights to Dulles International Airport.

## *Information*

Information on attractions, dining and lodging around Staunton is available at the **Staunton/Augusta County Travel Information Center**, 1303 Richmond Road, off I-81 at Exit 222, ☎ 540-332-3972. You can receive information on Waynesboro from the **Rockfish Gap Tourist Information Center** at the junction of Skyline Drive and the Blue Ridge Parkway, off I-64 at Exit 99, ☎ 800-471-3109.

For information on the town of Monterey and Highland County, contact the **Highland County Chamber of Commerce**, PO Box 223, Monterey, VA 24465, ☎ 540-468-2550.

# Winchester & Frederick County

Strategically situated at the northern gateway to the legendary Shenandoah Valley, Winchester has played a significant role in both Virginia and American history.

Founded in 1744 by Colonel James Wood, the town was settled predominantly by industrious, independent, Scotch-Irish, German and Quaker immigrants from Pennsylvania.

In 1748, 16-year-old George Washington arrived on the frontier at Winchester. Among his early endeavors, Washington surveyed Lord Fairfax's vast holdings, built a chain of forts to protect the settlers, led Virginia's forces against the French and hostile Indians and represented Frederick County in the House of Burgesses.

During the Civil War the City of Winchester changed hands 70 times under such famous generals as Stonewall Jackson and Philip Sheridan.

The Civil War devastated Winchester and Frederick County, but with the end of the hostilities the area gradually recovered. The charred acreage grew crops again, the burned barns were rebuilt, wheat and apples were marketed nationwide, new industries blossomed and the state's first public education system was established. Today, Winchester boasts a thriv-

ing economy and an inspiring historic setting bounded by one of the nation's most beautiful natural areas.

## *Sights*

**Washington's Office and Museum** is at the corner of Cork and Bradock Streets in Winchester. The building, used by Washington in 1755-56 during the erection of Fort Loudoun, houses many French and Indian, Revolutionary and Civil War relics, artifacts and memorabilia. The museum is open daily, April through October. ☎ 540-662-4412.

**Stonewall Jackson's Headquarters Museum**, 415 North Bradock Street, was the great general's headquarters from November, 1861, until March, 1862. The museum contains many exhibits, Civil War artifacts and Jackson memorabilia. The Headquarters are open daily. ☎ 540-667-3242 for information.

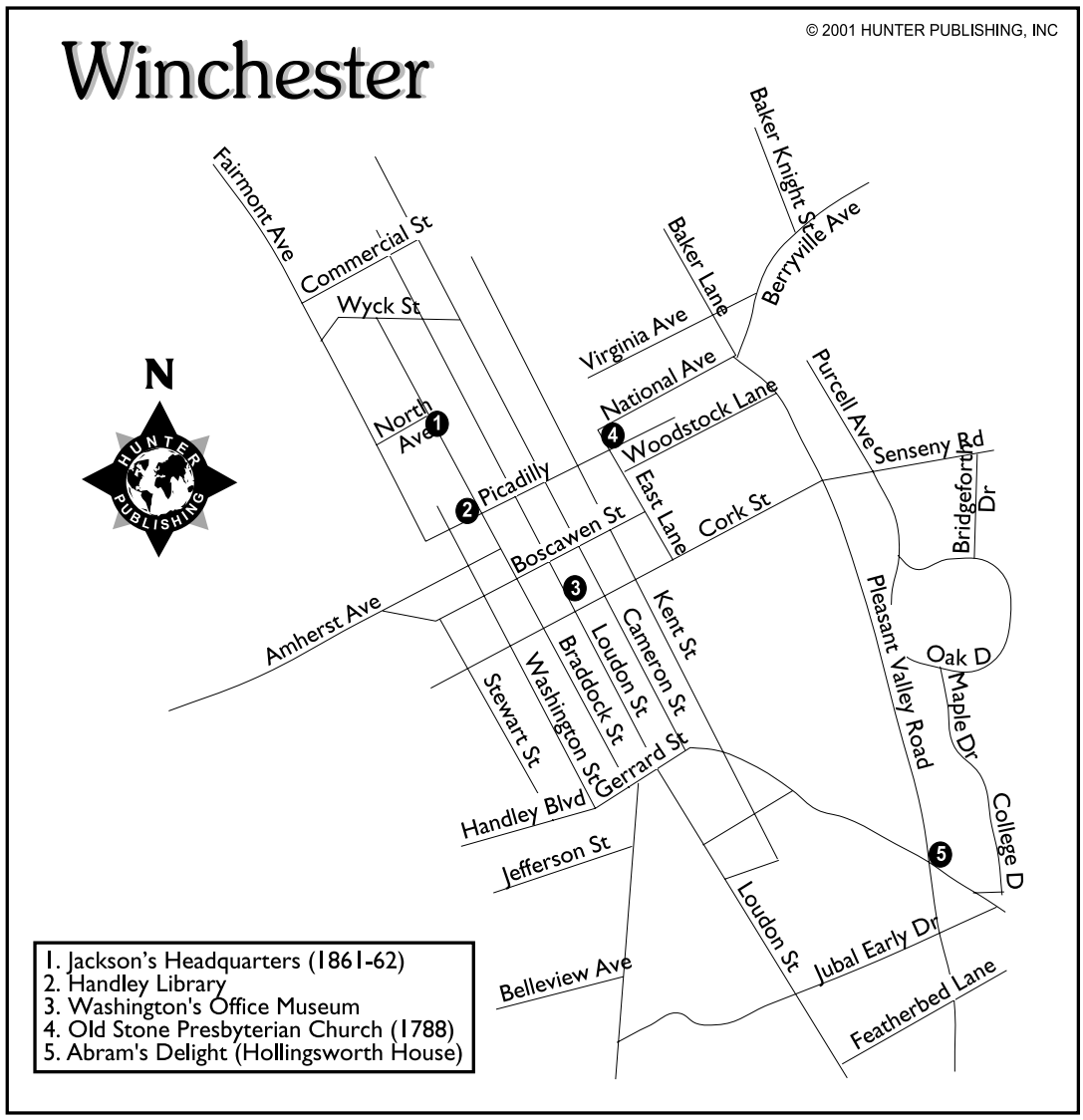
**Cedar Creek Battlefield Visitors Center**, on Route 11 in Middletown, is the site of Northern General Philip Sheridan's victory over Southern forces. Maps, models and audio tools help explain this see-saw battle that saw the South advance, then suffer tremendous losses as the North regained the upper hand. ☎ 540-869-2064.

**Glen Burnie Historic House**, **Gardens and Julian Wood Glass**, **Jr. Collection**, 801 Amherst Street, is the home of Winchester's founder. Inside, fine examples of Colonial-era woodworking, stone cutting and decorating are preserved or re-created. Outside, gardens, fountains and a cemetery spread over 25 acres create a lush setting for this red brick, Georgian-style home. It is open six days a week, April through October; closed Mondays. ☎ 540-662-1473.

**Abram's Delight and Log Cabin**, 1340 South Pleasant Valley Road, are Winchester's oldest buildings. Built in 1754 by the son of the first white settler to the region, these buildings have been restored and furnished in Colonial style. The site features a log cabin, boxwood gardens and a basement kitchen. Abram's Delight is open daily, April through October. ☎ 540-662-6519.

**The Old Presbyterian Church**, 306 East Piccadilly Street, has been used as a public school, an armory and a stable for Union troops. The church was restored in 1941 and is open daily. ☎ 540-662-3824.

**The Handley Library and Archives**, at Bradock and Piccadilly Streets, were completed in 1913. The building, crowned by a copper-covered dome, features stained glass windows, a wrought iron staircase and glass floors. The historical archives are housed on the lower level. The Handley is open daily except Sundays and major holidays. ☎ 540-662-9041.




**The Winchester Winery**, 2½ miles west of Winchester on Route 608, is a family-owned, 18-acre vineyard offering tours and tastings. The winery is open Wednesday through Sunday. ☎ 540-877-1275.

**Shenandoah Valley Discovery Museum**, 54 S. Loudoun Street on the Old Town Mall, is a great place to bring the kids for hands-on exhibits of simple machinery, arts and crafts and nature. It's open year-round, Tuesday through Sunday. ☎ 540-722-2020.

**Dinosaur Land**, at the intersection of Rtes. 522, 340 and 277 in White Post, boasts an array of life-size dinosaur replicas, including an amazing 20-foot tyrannosaurus rex. Models of cave men and women round out this prehistoric experience. ☎ 540-869-0951, or visit www.dinosaurland.com.

**Orland E. White Arboretum**,10 miles east of Winchester on US 50, is the state arboretum of Virginia, where hundreds of varieties of trees are grown. A walk on the trails winding throughout the groves and gardens in this 170-acre preserve is both peaceful and educational. It is open dawn to dusk year-round. ☎ 540-837-1758.

**Belle Grove Plantation**, on Route 11 in Middletown, was headquarters for Northern generals during the various military campaigns in the area during the Civil War. One section of the home is devoted to quilting and fabrics. There is a gift shop and the plantation hosts a number of festivals throughout the year, including a micro-brew festival, an antique car show and a major Civil War re-enactment. Tours are conducted every weekend. ☎ 540-869-2028 for tour and event schedules.

## *Tours*

The **Patsy Cline Nostalgia Driving Tour** is a driving tour through the hometown of the great country singer, who was born in Winchester. The Winchester-Frederick County Visitors Center and the Old Town Welcome Center have brochures available to guide visitors. ☎ 540-662-4135.

Tours of **Civil War** sites or significant **architecture** are popular activities in Winchester, lasting a few hours or an entire day. These tours are self-guided, although groups of 10 or more may make reservations for a guide to accompany them. The Old Town Welcome Center in the historic district provides brochures for both.

A guide to sites associated with **George Washington** in and around Winchester is available from the George Washington Office Museum. ☎ 540-662-6550.

## *Shopping*

**Apple Valley Mall**, 1850 Apple Blossom Drive, is the regional shopping hub for the northern Shenandoah Valley, with 90 stores and anchor stores JC Penney, Belk and Sears. ☎ 540-665-0201.

**Historic Old Town Winchester** is a 45-block National Historic District full of small boutiques, cafés, craft shops and galleries. The architecture is something to behold, a mix of Colonial and turn-of-the-century designs. There are a number of restaurants offering indoor dining or sidewalk cafés. All told, there are 200 businesses in the district. This is also the site of many of Winchester's festivals, exhibits and walking tours.

**Route 11 Potato Chips**, 2325 First Street in Middletown, ☎ 540-636-9209, makes chips on the premises, and a delectable variety of cooked sweet potatoes and other vegetables. These are hand-cooked vegetables that you can sample before you buy.

## *Theater*

**Shenandoah Summer Music Theatre** at Shenandoah University in Winchester presents four professional Broadway musicals June through early August at the Magalen Ohrstrom Bryant Theatre. ☎ 540-665-4569.

**Virginia Youth Ballet & Theatre** showcases the talents of area youth, ages nine and older, in musicals and comedies. The theater is on Cork Street in Winchester, a block from the historic district. ☎ 540-665-0343.

**Winchester Little Theater**, 315 W. Boscawen Street, ☎ 540-662-3331, produces comedies and dramas year-round.

## *Annual Events*

Winchester opens its gardens to the public during April for the **Historic Garden Tour**, when the flowers are all in bloom. ☎ 540-662-4135.

**The Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival**, held at the end of April, features the crowning of the Apple Blossom Queen, parades, arts and crafts, band contests, music and entertainment and a number of exciting and interesting attractions. ☎ 800-230-2139 or 540-662-3863.

**The Apple Harvest Arts & Crafts Festival**, held over the third weekend in September in the Jim Barnett Park, features a number of contests, music and entertainment and arts and crafts.

**Cedar Creek Living History and Re-enactment Weekend**, held in October at Belle Grove Plantation and Cedar Creek Battlefield, features a major re-enactment of the 1864 battle at this site. Volunteers in period costume demonstrate weaponry, military maneuvers and camp life. ☎ 540-869-2064.

## *Dining*

Winchester and Frederick County offer a multitude of dining options from fast food to the very best in French cuisine.

**The Ashby Inn**, 692 Federal Street in Paris, 18 miles east of Winchester, ☎ 540-592-3900, is open for dinner Wednesday through Saturday and for brunch on Sunday. The inn has a pleasant Virginia hunt-country atmosphere in a beautiful setting of rolling hills. It features period antiques and plank floors that date back to the inn's origins in 1829. Specialties of the house include roast lamb, smoked seafood and crab cakes.

**L'Auberge Provencale Inn**, ☎ 540-837-1375, in White Post, nine miles east of Winchester on US 50, is open for dinner Wednesday through Sunday. The old country inn features an extensive collection of art and offers outdoor dining when weather permits.

**Cork Street Tavern**, at 8 W. Cork Street in the historic district, ☎ 540-667-3777, offers casual dining and is open for lunch and dinner seven days a week. Specialties are ribs, chicken, steaks and burgers.

**La Carreta**, 928 Berryville Avenue, ☎ 540-662-5759, serves Mexican food daily for lunch and dinner.

**Panda Express**, 1860 Apple Blossom Drive, ☎ 540-667-6042, is open daily for lunch and dinner, specializing in fresh, healthy gourmet Chinese food.

**Café Sofia**, 2900 Valley Avenue, ☎ 540-667-2950, serves homemade Bulgarian food in a small, warm atmosphere, daily except for Sunday.

## *Accommodations*

Most establishments offer both handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms, but be sure to ask when making reservations.

### *Hotels & Motels*

**Best Western Lee-Jackson Motor Inn**, 711 Millwood Avenue, Winchester, ☎ 540-662-4154, has 140 guest rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. Amenities include a full-service restaurant and café, swimming pool, and several meeting rooms. Pets are allowed. Free coffee is available in the lobby; senior citizen discount. $$

**Comfort Inn-Stephens City**, 176 Town Run Lane in Stephens City, ☎ 540-869-6500, is a comfortable, smaller motel with 59 guest rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. There is a swimming pool. The management provides free coffee in the lobby and a continental breakfast. Discounts for seniors. $$

**Econo Lodge North**, 1507 Martinsburg Pike, ☎ 540-662-4700, has 50 guest rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. There is a free continental breakfast and coffee in the lobby, and rooms specially equipped for senior citizens. $-$$

**Hampton Inn**, 1655 Apple Blossom Drive, ☎ 540-667-8011, has 103 guest rooms, with hair dryers, irons, and sleeper sofas. Handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms are available. There is a restaurant nearby. $$

**Holiday Inn**, 1017 Millwood Pike, ☎ 540-667-3300, is a fairly large hotel, very clean, with 175 guest rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. Facilities include a full-service restaurant and café, a bar, a swimming pool and several meeting rooms. Pets are permitted. Free coffee in the lobby. Senior discount. $$

**Ramada Inn**, 1601 Martinsburg Pike, ☎ 540-667-8894, has 82 guest rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. There is a restaurant nearby, local calls are free, and there is an outdoor pool, exercise equipment and a meeting room for guest use. $$

**Travelodge of Winchester**, 160 Front Royal Pike, ☎ 540-665-0685, is a large hotel with 149 guest rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. There are also eight efficiencies. The hotel has a heated swimming pool, a restaurant nearby and fitness equipment. Pets

are allowed, there is free coffee and a continental breakfast in the lobby, and a senior citizen discount is offered. $$

### *Bed & Breakfasts / Inns*

**The L'Auberge Provencale Inn**, in White Post, nine miles east of Winchester on US 50, ☎ 540-837-1375, offers Victorian decor. It was once a sheep farm owned by Lord Fairfax. A full breakfast is served each morning. Complimentary airport transportation. $$-$$$

In Berryville, nine miles east of Winchester in Clarke County, you'll find the **Berryville Bed & Breakfast**, 100 Taylor Street, ☎ 540-955-2200 or 800-826-7520, a convenient launching point for exploring northern Shenandoah Valley. Innkeepers Don and Jan Riviere offer four guest rooms, two with private bath, and serve an abundant breakfast. Children are welcome with notice, but pets are not allowed. $$$

**The Lost Dog B&B**, 211 S. Church Street in Berryville, ☎ 540-955-1181, has three rooms, each with a private bath, in a 110-year-old home in the town's historic district. Just off Berryville's Main Street, the inn is within walking distance of fine shops and restaurants. Visit their Web site at www.thelostdog.com. $-$$

At the **River House B&B**, on Route 1 in Boyce, ☎ 540-837-1476 or 800-838-1476, guests can stay in a 1780 fieldstone farmhouse. Innkeepers Cornelia and Donald Niemann cater to couples, business travelers, and have facilities to host small weddings, family reunions and house parties. Visit www.bbhost.com.riverhouse_va for more information. $$

### *Camping*

**Battle of Cedar Creek Campground**, 8950 Valley Pike Road in Middletown, ☎ 540-869-1888, is open year-round. There is a swimming pool, water, electric and sewage hookups for trailers and RVs, a camp store, hot showers and fishing facilities on Cedar Creek.

**Cove Campground**, 980 Cove Road in Gore (Route 704) is a full-service campground with tent and trailer sites, hook-ups for RVs, a lake, bike rentals and boat rentals. ☎ 540-858-2882.

## *Transportation*

Air transportation is provided by the **Winchester Regional Airport**. **Greyhound Lines Inc.** also serves Winchester.

## *Information*

For more information about Winchester, Frederick County and the Shenandoah Valley (including directions, points of interest, brochures,

maps and lodging assistance), contact the **Winchester-Frederick County Conventions and Visitors Bureau**, 1360 S. Pleasant Valley Road, Winchester, VA 22601, ☎ 540-662-4135, or visit their Web site, www.visitwinchesterva.com.

**Old Town Welcome Center** at 2 N. Cameron St., has tour brochures, lodging, dining and shopping information for Winchester's historic district. ☎ 540-722-6367.

# *Southwest Virginia*

## Abingdon

Abingdon is a town rich in tradition and beauty. The oldest town west of the Blue Ridge Mountains, Abingdon has served as the Washington County seat since 1778. Lovingly restored old homes framed in a setting of mountain laurel and rhododendrons accent the vibrant rolling hills. In Abingdon, music, art, drama and unique shopping opportunities abound. The old city is a tapestry of performing artists and festivals.

Visitors to Abingdon can browse the craft shops, galleries and specialty stores, and "shop the world" at Dixie Pottery. They can stroll down shaded, brick sidewalks or take a saunter along the scenic Virginia Creeper Trail, and they can sample the culinary arts at one of a dozen or so fine restaurants.

Whether you're visiting overnight or for a vacation, Abingdon offers a world rich in hospitality, history and charm; a chance to spend a little time in a healthy atmosphere of outdoor tranquility.

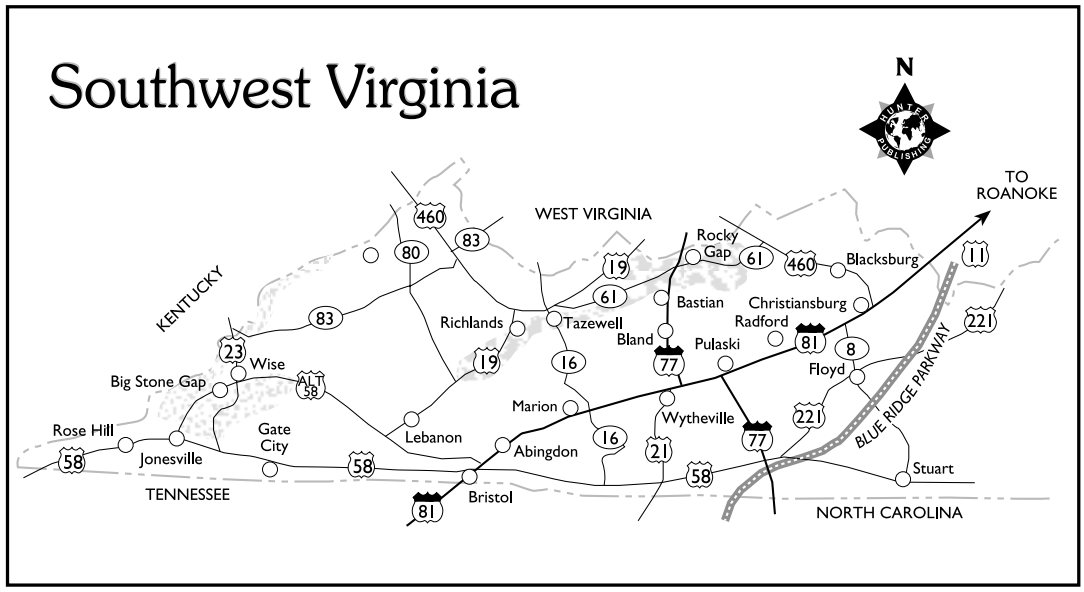


### *Sights*

Abingdon's **Historic District** covers a 20-block area. The architecture is Federal and Victorian, the gardens are impeccable. If you have an afternoon free, stroll down the tree-lined neighborhoods, examining old homes once owned by the town's most prominent judges and business owners. Many are attractions in their own right, such as the Barter Theatre, the Martha Washington Inn, and The Tavern. The Washington County Courthouse on Court Street is of particular interest, featuring Tiffany windows installed after World War I. The James Fields House, at 1208 W. Main Street, serves as Abingdon's Visitors Center and is typical of the buildings that existed in town before the Civil War.

**The Fields-Penn 1860 House Museum**, 208 West Main Street, depicts the life of a prosperous family just prior to the Civil War through period room settings and interpretive displays.

**The Martha Washington Inn**, 150 West Main Street, was the home of General Francis Preston. Built in 1832, the old house served as the Martha Washington College in 1860 and as a hospital during the Civil War. Actors at The Barter Theater across the street used it as a boarding house for a time. Today, it is a four-diamond rated lodging and stands tall as one of western Virginia's most notable inns.




**The Barter Theatre**, built around 1832 as a church for the Sinking Spring Presbyterian congregation, is now the state theater of Virginia. Located across the street from the Martha Washington Inn, it claims to be one of the oldest professional residence theaters in the United States. The theater takes its name from the long-ago practice of accepting goods in exchange for admission ("ham for Hamlet," as locals say). On the playbill you'll find Shakespeare, musical reviews and premieres. ☎ 540-628-3991.

**The William King Regional Arts Center**, a partner of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, features four museum-grade galleries, working studios for artists, classes, and a museum store. It is located at 405 Academy Drive. ☎ 540-628-5005.

**The Art Depot** is both a gallery and a workshop, located at 314 Depot Square, and is home to the Depot Artists Association. Work by regional and state-wide artists is displayed throughout the year. Space is available for working artists. A number of mediums are on display – painting, weaving, pottery, sculptures – as well as performance arts, especially dancing. ☎ 540-628-9091.

## Day Trip: Damascus

Picture this scene: You're hiking the Appalachian Trail. Have been for weeks. North Carolina's rugged mountains are behind you. Virginia lies ahead as you forge northward to Maine. Last night, in a shelter, two southbound hikers raved on about the Virginia hike, about the Grayson Highlands, Three Ridges and Skyline Drive. You wake up early, eager to make time. Crossing into Virginia, the trees fairly burst with autumn color. You come to a bend in the trail – and stop in your tracks.

In the valley sits a small town with white clapboard houses, church spires and neatly arranged streets. Kids ride bikes. A homeowner rakes the leaves into a big pile in her front yard.

Welcome to Damascus, a.k.a. Trail Town.

Such is the power of Damascus that there are actual documented cases of AT through-hikers entering town and never leaving. That may say more about the person than the town, but the fact remains: Damascus is a great place, for visitors and residents alike.

After all, it's hard to find fault with a town whose police chief is a confessed "Dead Head" and the preferred mode of transportation is your feet or a bike.

Seasons here are marked by the bloomings. Wildflowers coat the Appalachian slopes in spring, vibrant trilliums, wild iris and lady slippers; rare Catawba rhododendron bloom blue and purple in June; and Queen Anne's Lace pushes forth its white crown in August.

The proximity to the AT and Virginia Creeper Trail make Damascus a nexus for hikers. The Iron Mountain Trail heads out of town from a road dead-end, leading into the Mt. Rogers National Recreation Area.

It all comes together for Damascus during Trail Days, its annual celebration of the Appalachian Trail and through-hikers, who are so much a part of the town's life.

For information on visiting Damascus, call the **Town Hall** at ☎ 540-475-5131. Local retailers, like **Blue Blaze Bike & Shuttle Service**, ☎ 800-475-5095, are also a wealth of information. You can also contact the **Mount Rogers NRA office**, ☎ 540-475-5131.

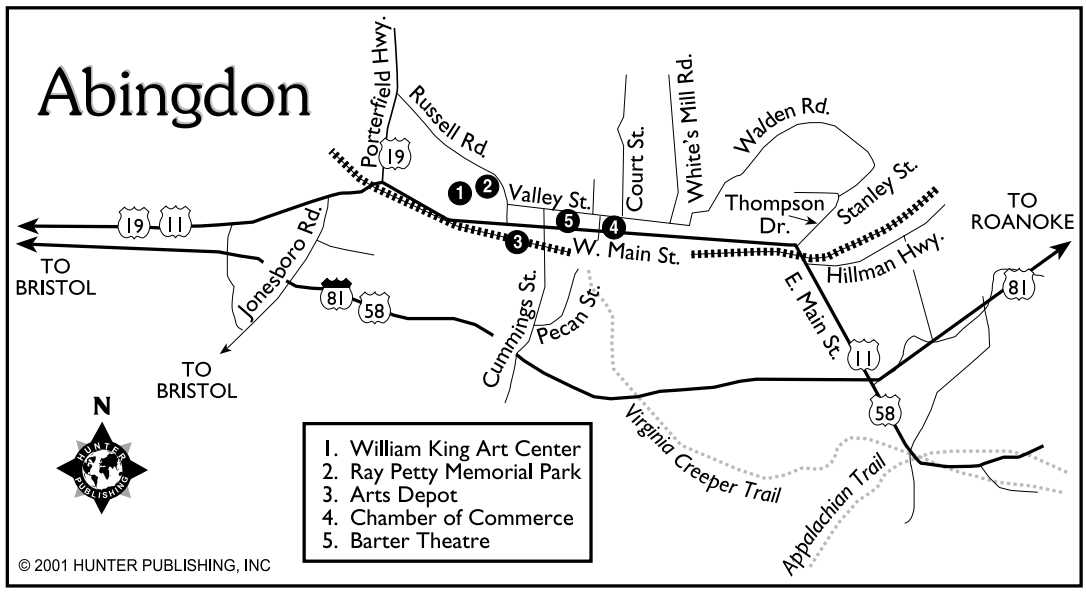
Access Damascus from I-81 at Exit 19, taking Route 58 south into town. Another option is Route 91 south from I-81 at Exit 29. For a great scenic drive, head south from Marion on Route 16, then go west on Route 58.

However you get there – by trail, bike or car – be careful. Damascus just might cast that ol' mountain charm over you.



## *Events*

**The Virginia Highlands Festival**, held in Abingdon the first two weeks in August, features a large number of exhibits, demonstrations of local handicrafts, hot air ballooning, historical reenactments, musical en-




tertainment and an antiques market. The festival has been named among the top 100 events in North America. ☎ 800-435-3440.

In mid-September, Abingdon hosts **The Washington County Fair & Burley Tobacco Festival**, which features a variety of exhibits that include farm equipment, livestock and crops. There's also live musical entertainment, talent shows, a beauty contest and a parade. ☎ 800-435-3440.

For additional events, call the **Abingdon Convention and Visitors Bureau**, ☎ 800-435-3440.

## *Shopping*

When it comes to shopping, Abingdon is everything you would imagine a hip little town should be. Shops specialize in cute country collectibles and chic decors, Christmas ornaments and locally made fine arts and crafts, the latest fashions and hard-to-find books. Elsewhere they may be called junk shops, but in Abingdon, the antique farm implements, old signs, rickety furniture and old barrels that stuff the walls and hallways of several shops make for exciting exploring. After lunch, you can duck into a gallery, watch an artist at work in his or her studio, or sit under the shade of a broad-leaf tree and sip coffee as a slice of the world passes by. What you shouldn't do is rush.

## *Entertainment*

The performing arts flourish at the renowned **Barter Theatre,** ☎ 540-628-3991. Actors perform on two stages from February through December. As the State Theatre of Virginia, the Barter players present the finest in comedy, drama and music. Among the performers who have acted

with the Barter Theatre are Gregory Peck, Ernest Borgnine, Patricia Neal, Ned Beatty, Gary Collins and Hume Cronyn.

## *Recreation*

Recreation in the Abingdon area includes swimming, boating, fishing and picnicking at **South Holston Lake**, south of Abingdon on Route 75; camping, hiking and nature watching at the **Mount Rogers National Recreation Area**, near Damascus, and along the Appalachian Trail; and hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, nature watching and cross-country skiing on the magnificent **Virginia Creeper Trail**, which begins in Damascus.

**Highlands Ski & Outdoor Center** in Abingdon is both an outfitter and a tour provider. You'll find your kayaking, hiking, rock climbing and mountain biking supplies here. In addition, the center runs mountain bike shuttles to the Mount Rogers region and the Virginia Creeper Trail. ☎ 800-736-4174 for rates and information.

**The Virginia Creeper Trail** is southwest Virginia's premiere multi-use trail. Mountain bikes and hikers use this 34.3-mile recreation trail, which begins at the Virginia-North Carolina border and ends in Abingdon, also known as "Trail Town." From one end to the other, the terrain varies from rugged to pastoral. You'll cross at least 100 train bridges and trestles. The trail name comes from the "creepers," slow-moving trains that carried coal from West Virginia mines to the port cities on the East Coast. The Virginia Creeper Trail Club (www.ehc.edu/vacreeper) is an organization dedicated to keeping this one of the country's best rail trails.

Hot air balloons are a popular activity and a great way to see the splendor of southwest Virginia's mountain region without breaking a sweat. Two companies, **Sky High Balloon Promotions** in Abingdon, ☎ 540-623-2306, and **Balloon Virginia** in Abingdon and Tazewell, ☎ 540-628-6353, run daily flights all year long.

**Blue Blaze** in Damascus provides bike and shuttle service for the Mt. Rogers area, including Iron Mountain, the Virginia Creeper Trail and other Appalachian Mountain areas. The shop, its guides and other employees are all-around great boosters for the Damascus area. If you need a place to stay, a bite to eat or a recommendation on where to ride, and they have a ready answer. ☎ 800-475-5095.

## *Dining*

Abingdon offers a variety of dining opportunities. The restaurants listed below are especially good values.

**The Abingdon General Store & Gallery**, 301 West Main Street, ☎ 540-628-8382, is a unique store and gallery with a bakery and restaurant serving good traditional food at reasonable prices.

**The Hardware Company**, 260 West Main Street, ☎ 540-628-1111, is now a fine restaurant with a unique dining atmosphere. Specialties of the house include fresh seafood and Western beef.

**The Starving Artist Café**, 134 Wall Street, ☎ 540-628-8445, is a local favorite. The restaurant is open for lunch and dinner and doubles as an art gallery.

**The Dining Room**, located in the Martha Washington Inn, ☎ 540-628-3161, is a Victorian-style restaurant that offers traditional and continental fare in an atmosphere of elegance and at a price to suit the family budget. The restaurant is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

**The Tavern**, 222 East Main Street, ☎ 540-628-1118, is Abingdon's oldest building, dating from 1779. It's open for lunch and dinner.

## *Accommodations*

Most establishments offer both handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms, but be sure to ask when making reservations.

### *Hotels & Motels*

**The Camberley's Martha Washington Inn**, 150 West Main Street, ☎ 540-628-3161, is an exclusive hotel with 61 rooms and suites, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. The hotel offers a full-service restaurant, meeting rooms, pool privileges, bar, tennis and golf privileges, lawn games and antique furnishings. Afternoon tea is served between 4 and 5 p.m. Senior citizen discount. $$-$$$

**The Alpine**, 882 East Main Street, ☎ 540-628-3178, has 19 guest rooms, including non-smoking rooms. There are several restaurants close by, a playground and a fine view of the mountains. Senior citizen discount. $

**Comfort Inn**, at the junction of Interstate 81 at Exit 14 and Virginia Route 140, ☎ 540-676-2222, offers 80 guest rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. Complimentary continental breakfast; senior discount. $

**The Empire Motel**, 887 Empire Drive, ☎ 540-628-7131, has 105 guest rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. Pets are permitted. Senior citizen discount. $

**Hampton Inn**, 340 Commerce Drive, Exit 17 off I-81, ☎ 540-619-4600, has 68 guest rooms. Dataport phones are provided for computer hookups and some rooms have hot tubs. Handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms are available. There is an outdoor pool. $$

**Holiday Inn Express**, 940 E. Main Street, ☎ 540-676-2829, has 80 guest rooms, meeting facilities and an outdoor pool. Non-smoking and handicapped-accessible rooms are available. A free continental breakfast is served daily. $$

### *Bed & Breakfasts / Inns*

**The Crooked Cabin**, 303 E. Main Street in Abingdon, ☎ 540-628-9582, is an interesting lodging experience. You rent the entire cabin, which can sleep up to six people in three bedrooms. There's a living room, meeting space and back yard. Food is delivered each evening and fruit, tea and coffee are always stocked. In-town attractions are a short walk away. $$$

**Inn On Town Creek**, 445 E. Valley Street in Abingdon, ☎ 540-628-4560, is set on four acres along Town Creek. There are three rooms and two suites filled with antiques. Beds are king-size; three of the rooms have private bath. The inn is non-smoking. Pets are not allowed. The gardens here are nicely landscaped, with terraced patios. $$$

**Maxwell Manor Bed & Breakfast**, 19215 Old Jonesboro Road, ☎ 540-628-3912, is a rambling Georgian-style home with two guest rooms and one suite, each with private bath. There is an indoor pool, and a two-tier porch has swings for just plain relaxing. The living room and dining room each have a fireplace. Meeting rooms are available. A full breakfast is served. $$-$$$

**Shepherd's Joy**, 254 White's Mill Road in Abingdon, ☎ 540-628-3273, is a Queen Anne-style Victorian home located on a working sheep farm. There are four guest rooms tastefully decorated with antiques and a series of P. Buckley Moss paintings. This is a quiet inn, yet convenient to in-town attractions. $$-$$$

**Silversmith Inn Bed & Breakfast**, 102 E. Main Street in Abingdon, ☎ 540-676-3924, has four guest rooms and two suites, each with private baths set in a three-story brick home near The Barter Theater. Large front windows look out onto Main Street. Inside, there are queen-sized beds in each room, with air conditioning. $$-$$$

**The Swiss Inn**, at Exit 29 off I-81 in Glade Spring, ☎ 540-429-2233, offers dining and lodging with a touch of Switzerland. There are 32 rooms in the modern inn, and a gourmet restaurant in a historic 1835 home. It's located just seven miles north of Abingdon.

## *Transportation*

**The Tri-City Regional Airport** is 13 miles southwest of Bristol just off Interstate 81. Most major and regional carriers offer direct or connecting flights to all major domestic and international destinations.

By road, Abingdon is served principally by **Interstate 81** and **US Highways 11**, **19** and **58**. **Greyhound bus service** is also available.

## *Information*

For information, brochures and a full list of area restaurants and hotels, contact the **Abingdon Convention & Visitors Bureau**, 335 Cummings Street, Abingdon, VA 24210, ☎ 540-676-2282 or toll-free at 800-435-3440. You can also visit their Web site at www.abingdon.com/tourism. The visitors bureau is located in the historic Hassinger House and is open daily, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

# Big Stone Gap & Wise County

The story of Big Stone Gap is one of boom and bust, of grand plans of outsiders to capitalize on natural resources like coal, iron ore, and timber, only to have those plans dissolve as the minerals and trees were depleted.

In the 1850s, John Olinger bought 42,000 acres in Wise County for a total of $4.92. He called in "Mineral City" due to the huge reserves of coal and iron ore. In 1888, it returned to the name the earliest settlers had given it: Big Stone Gap.

A 40-year timber boom began in 1887. Railroads were needed to transport both lumber and coal, and the first track was laid in 1890. The streets of Big Stone Gap were laid out according to a plan, unlike most mountain towns. Lots were sold, large houses built, and property values skyrocketed. Plans were even drawn up for a 300-room hotel.

The year 1892 brought a major bank failure. The grand hotel never materialized. By 1915 most of the valuable trees had disappeared from the Appalachian slopes. They were not replanted. Production of iron ore began in Wise County in 1892, but it yielded little, and by 1920 most of the iron furnaces had closed.

Coal was the only major industry to survive around Big Stone Gap. Production peaked in 1926, and today it remains an important source of employment in Wise County.

Despite the town's "boom and bust," life changed little for those hardy inviduals who carved out homesteads in the the rugged mountains. They lived in moutain gaps and hollows much as they had for generations, hunting, farming and moonshining. Many of the place names retain the names of original setters.

Today, as tobacco – and even coal – decline, leaders hope tourism and outdoor recreation is the next boon for the area. The area is again capitaliz-

ing on homegrown resources. Bluegrass music draws audiences from throughout the region, and *The Trail of the Lonesome Pine* outdoor drama, based on a novel by a local author, draws thousands to Big Stone Gap each year. The surrounding countryside covers thousands of acres, with miles of trails and dozens of fishing streams in the Jefferson National Forest. It's one of the few places left where you can spend days without seeing a soul and, if you're lucky, happen upon one of those early homesteader's cabins.

## *Sights*

**The Harry W. Meador Jr. Coal Museum**, at E. Third Street and Shawnee Avenue, Big Stone Gap, ☎ 540-523-4950. The museum traces the history of coal-mining in southwest Virgina, from the pick-and-shovel days to the present. Open Wednesday through Sunday; closed major holidays.

**June Tolliver House**, at Jerome and Clinton Streets, Big Stone Gap, ☎ 540-523-4707. Here you can see where June Tolliver lived. She was a central character in the book, *The Trail of the Lonesome Pine*, by Big Stone Gap writer John Fox. The house is decorated in period furnishings of the 1890s and has a gift and book shop. Open mid-May through mid-December. Call for opening hours.

**Southwest Virginia Museum**, W. First Street and Wood Avenue, Big Stone Gap, ☎ 540-523-1322. The house, built in 1890s by Rufus Ayers, a Virginia attorney general, is worth the visit. The mansion, made of locally-quarried limestone, sandstone and red oak, took seven years to complete. The exhibits tell the fascinating stories of the boom and bust of Big Stone Gap and the tenacious people who settled and stayed here. It houses artifacts from mining and town life through the last 100 years. It is open March through December, except Thanksgiving and Christmas days.

**John Fox**, **Jr. Museum**, Shawnee Avenue, Big Stone Gap, ☎ 540-523-2747, was the home of the author of *The Trail of the Lonesome Pine*, a novel based partly on reality that has been made into a film three times. It has also been made into a play that is performed each summer in Big Stone Gap. The 1888 house contains furnishings and memorabilia of the family.

## Cumberland Gap & Breaks Interstate Park

The Virginia-Kentucky border more or less follows natural ridgelines where the so-called "Virginia plates" push up and over the "Kentucky plates." This geologic phenomenon causes some of Virginia's most fascinating natural features. Among these are

**Cumberland Gap** in the far southwest point of the state, and **"the Breaks**" to the northeast, the largest canyon east of the Mississippi. As settlers forged westward, the mountains and canyons proved incredible barriers – thus the fame of Daniel Boone's Wilderness Road through the Cumberland Gap. Today, visitors can enjoy the historical and recreational opportunities they provide, from following the path of the Wilderness Road to whitewater rafting.

**Breaks Interstate Park** (☎ 800-982-5122) is a joint venture between Virginia and Kentucky. The 4,500-acre park, located on KY-VA 80, eight miles north of Haysi, VA, offers breaktaking views of the canyon and river below, camping, hiking, and live bluegrass in the outdoor amphitheater. There is a lodge and a restaurant with some of the best views in Virginia. Whitewater rafting on the Russell Fork River draws enthusiasts from all over the country to these Class VI rapids each October. The park's **Rhododendron Restaurant**, ☎ 800-982-5122, offers a panoramic view from the canyon rim and has dining outdoors on the deck.

**Cumberland Gap National Historical Park** (☎ 606-248-2817), in Middlesboro, KY, is the nation's largest national historical park.

**Wilderness Road State Park** in Ewing, VA (☎ 540-445-3065), offers the 10-mile Wilderness Road Trail for hiking, biking and horses. There is also a historic mansion within this day-use park.

## *Entertainment*

**Country Cabin**, Old US 23, Norton, ☎ 540-679-0369, features live bluegrass by local and regional performers every Saturday night.

**Trail of the Lonesome Pine Outdoor Drama** is shown next door to the June Tolliver house in Big Stone Gap in an outdoor amphitheater. Each summer, from late June through early September, John Fox's romantic story of the early settlers of the area comes to life. For tickets and show times, ☎ 540-523-1235 or 800-362-0149.

**Virginia-Kentucky Opry**, Park Avenue, Norton, ☎ 540-679-1901, is a 250-seat theater featuring live entertainment.

## *Recreation*

**Flag Rock Recreation Area**, 618 Virginia Avenue, Norton, ☎ 540-679-0754, has rental shelters, camping, lake fishing and a 1,000-foot-high overlook of the city.

**Heart of Appalachia Bike Route**, ☎ 800-SWVA-FUN or 540-523-2005, is a 128-mile route from Burkes Garden in Tazewell County to the Guest River Gorge in Wise County.

**High Knob Recreation Area**, in the Clinch Ranger District of the Jefferson National Forest, ☎ 540-328-2931, offers views of four states from a stone observation tower. There is also camping, lake swimming and hiking on the Chief Bengee Scout Trail.

**Lake Keokee**, near the community of Keokee, ☎ 540-328-2931, has a 92-acre fishing lake and a hiking trail.



## *Dining*

**China Garden**, Wise County Plaza, between Wise and Norton, ☎ 540-679-5201. Open for lunch and dinner seven days a week.

**Fish Tales**, VA/KY Regional Shopping Center, Norton, ☎ 540-679-1651, is a family restaurant featuring large seafood platters and fresh barbecue.

**Monterey Mexican Restaurant**, 154 Ridgeview Circle, Wise, ☎ 540-679-5850. Open seven days a week for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

**Ms. Fritzi's Tearoom at The Victorian House**, 606 Wood Avenue East, Big Stone Gap, ☎ 540-523-6245, is a Victorian home just a few steps from *The Trail of the Lonesome Pine* outdoor drama. The tearoom serves gourmet soups, salads, sandwiches and desserts. There is also a gift shop. Open for lunch and dinner.

**Robert's House Restaurant**, 146 Roberts Street, Wise, ☎ 540-328-2277.

**Roma's Pizzeria**, Wise Shopping Center, ☎ 540-328-3714.

**Shannon's Restaurant**, 197 Ridgeview Drive, Wise County Plaza, Norton, ☎ 540-679-5617, serves up hamburgers, seafood, and all kinds of American food. Closed on Sundays.

**Stringer's Restaurant**, 412 East 5th Street, Big Stone Gap, ☎ 540-523-5388, is open daily and has a bounteous, all-you-can-eat buffet, served cafeteria-style.

## *Accommodations*

Most establishments offer both handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms, but be sure to ask when making reservations.

**Country Hearth Inn**, 375 Wharton Lane, Norton, ☎ 540-679-5340, has 58 rooms and offers a free breakfast, whirlpool suites, with shopping and restaurants nearby. $$

**Country Inn Motel & Campground**, 627 Gilley Avenue, Big Stone Gap, ☎ 540-523-0374, has 42 rooms, most with a view of the mountains. Rooms have refrigerators and pets are allowed. The campground accommodates trailers and RVs and has full hookups. $

**Holiday Inn Norton**, 551 Highway 58 East, Norton, ☎ 540-679-7000, has 120 rooms, an indoor pool, restaurant, and pets are allowed. $$

## *Transportation*

The nearest commercial airport is the **Tri-Cities Regional Airport** in Blountville, TN, just over the border from Bristol.

## *Information*

**Lonesome Pine Tourist & Information Center**, is located in a historic train car at 627 Gilley Avenue in Big Stone Gap, ☎ 540-523-2060. The "101 Car" was built in 1870 and was once the private car of the president of the Interstate Railroad. It even has its own bathroom. During its long career, the car was used as an office and even a hunting cabin. Today, its turn-of-the-century plush interior has been restored.

**Heart of Appalachia Tourism Authority**, 311 Wood Avenue, Big Stone Gap, ☎ 888-SWVA-FUN or 540-523-2005, promotes tourism in far southwest Virginia.

**Wise County Chamber of Commerce**, 765 Park Avenue, Norton, VA 24273, ☎ 540-679-0961, provides visitor information, brochures and a calendar of events.

# Bristol & Washington County

Bristol straddles the Virginia-Tennessee state line in an elevated region where the wildflowers and scenic vistas are a delight to behold. It seems that every day is a holiday with tempting aromas of culinary delights, the lively steps of cloggers and the roar of race cars at Bristol Motor Speedway.

## *History*

Bristol is rich in history. Around 1765 Evan Shelby, a noted "Indian fighter," settled here on a tract called Sapling Grove. His home became the neighborhood fort, where settlers sought refuge under Indian attacks. Bristol grew around the "fort," and eventually became an important railroad center. The town was incorporated in 1856, the same year

the last piece of track was laid to complete the Tennessee and Virginia Railroad.

Although it's essentially a city in two states, Bristol is in fact two cities – with two different area codes! In 1881, both sides of the town agreed to accept the center of the city's main street, known today as State Street, as the Tennessee-Virginia state line. Brass markers down the center of the street clearly indicate the state line and acknowledge the uniqueness of the city. The Bristol Sign spans the state line, and is listed on the National Historic Register. Built in 1910 and declaring Bristol "a good place to live," it welcomed the thousands of rail passengers entering the city.

Bristol is widely recognized as the "Birthplace of Country Music," a designation that was even confirmed by the US Congress in 1998. There is a museum, a mural, and a monument paying tribute to this heritage. In 1927, Ralph Peer of the Victor Talking Machine Company established a recording studio in Bristol. That studio launched the careers of Jimmie Rogers, the Stonemans and the Carter family, and what was then known as Appalachian folk music was transformed into the national sensation we know today as country music.



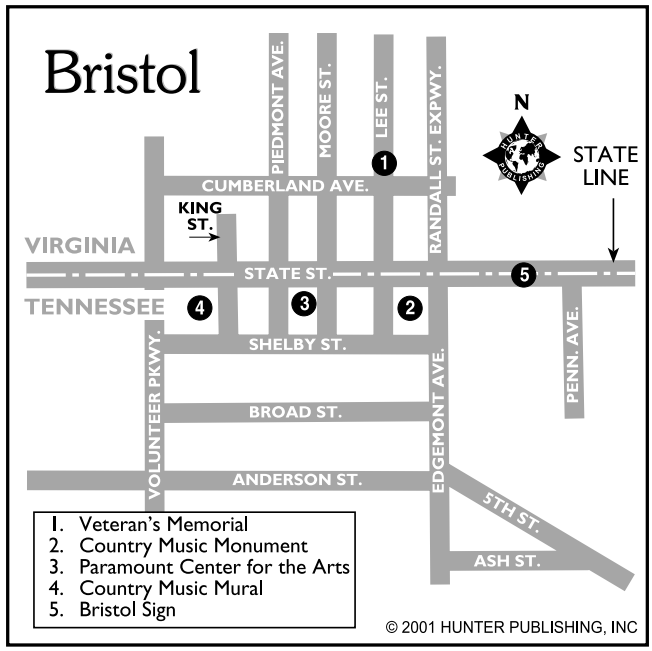
## *Sights*

**Birthplace of Country Music Alliance Museum**, is located in the Bristol Mall at 500 Gate City Highway, ☎ 423-990-BCMA or 540-645-0035. Housed here are artifacts from those seminal 1927 recordings, referred to as the Bristol sessions. The museum traces country music from its Appalachian roots with the Carter Family, through the radio days of Earl Scruggs, the career of Tennesee Ernie Ford, to present country stars like Kenny Chesney. There is also a gift shop.

**Bristol Caverns**, located five miles southeast of Bristol off US 421, are the largest caverns in the Smoky Mountain region and are more than 200 million years old. The caverns feature many unusual rock formations that can be seen from lighted pathways winding through the caverns and along an underground river. Guided tours are conducted every 20 minutes. ☎ 423-878-2011.

**The Bristol Motor Speedway**, 2801 Highway 11E, is the world's fastest half-mile track, and hosts seven NASCAR events each year. ☎ 423-764-1161.

**Carter Family Fold and Museum**, Route 614, Hiltons, ☎ 540-386-6054, is the former home of the famous Carter Family. The family recorded for the Victor Talking Machine Company in Bristol, laying the foundation for country music. The museum is located in the old A.P. Carter Store and houses the musical artifacts of the family. Every Saturday night the tradition is carried on with live acoustic music shows in the




rustic 1,000-seat theater next door. Call ahead for the museum's opening hours, show times and directions.

**Paramount Center for the Arts**, on State Street, Bristol, is housed in a 1931 art deco theater that first opened as a movie house. Today, after a $4 million restoration, it hosts Broadway tours and regional talent. There is a mighty Wurlitzer organ inside. The building is on the National Register of Historic Places. Tours can be arranged at the box office, or by calling ☎ 423-968-7456.

**The Rocky Mount Museum**, 11 miles southwest of Bristol on US 11E, in Piney Flats, TN, features a two-story log house built around 1770 that served as the capitol under William Blount from 1790 until 1792. Blount was the Governor of the United States Territory South of the Ohio River. The old building has been restored to its original simplicity. The site features a log kitchen, slave quarters, a blacksmith's shop and a smokehouse. It is open daily except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's. ☎ 423-538-7396.

**Tennessee Ernie Ford Home**, 1223 Anderson Street, Bristol, ☎ 423-989-4850, is the birthplace of the world-famous entertainer, and features memorabilia from his career.

The **Veteran's Memorial** at Cumberland Square, Cumberland and Lee Streets, Bristol, features five life-sized bronze sculptures by Maria Kirby-Smith. ☎ 540-645-7275.

## *Entertainment*

Bristol's commitment to the arts is evident throughout the city. Organizations such as the **Theatre Bristol**, ☎ 423-968-4977, **The Paramount Center for the Arts**, ☎ 423-968-7456, the **Bristol Arts Guild**, ☎ 540-669-6711, and the **Bristol Ballet Company**, ☎ 540-669-6051, form the nucleus of the city's cultural offerings. Local colleges, theaters and civic centers also provide frequent programs. The **Viking Hall Civic Center**, ☎ 423-764-0188, a popular entertainment facility, plays host to a diversity of concerts, trade shows, conventions and other activities. **The Cameo Theatre**, built in 1925, and renovated and re-opened in 1996,

shows family, animation, and classic films, and there's also a concert series. It's located on State Street, ☎ 423-878-6279.

In addition to NASCAR action at **Bristol Motor Speedway**, ☎ 423-764-1161, there is drag racing at **Bristol International Dragway**, ☎ 423-764-1161.

## *Shopping*

Visitors will discover a new dimension in shopping with an excursion through the thriving revived downtown district of Bristol. Quaint little restaurants and cafés cluster the streets, offering a wide variety of traditional and ethnic cuisines from seafood to bagels to homemade pastries. The downtown shops are unique, bountiful and easily accessible. A variety of shops and stores offer antiques, fine jewelry, clothing and handmade home accessories within walking distance of one another.

If you're after antiques, visit the **A-1 Antique Expo**, 50,000 square feet and more than 300 dealers, at Commonwealth and Sycamore Streets, ☎ 540-466-7755. There's also **Antiques Unlimited**, 620-24 State Street, ☎ 423-764-4211, **Heritage Antique Mall**, 625 State Street, ☎ 540-669-9774, and more than 20 others.

Several major department stores, fine restaurants, more than 60 specialty shops and stores, along with a six-screen movie theater, are housed in the **Bristol Mall.**

## *Recreation*

In the winter months visitors can ski at any one of a number magnificent slopes located within an hour's drive of the city. They can step back in time to journey through the geological wonders of **Bristol Caverns** and **Appalachian Caverns**, where guided tours are conducted by trained staff members.

The area offers a variety of hunting, fishing and boating opportunities.

### *Natural Areas*

**Observation Knob Park**, on South Holston Lake, eight miles southeast of Bristol on US 421, is one of five TVA (Tennessee Valley Authority) lakes in the Bristol area. The lake, on the south fork of the Holston River, offers a variety of outdoor activities, including fishing, boating, swimming, camping, hiking and nature watching. ☎ 423-878-5561.

**Steele Creek Park and Nature Center**, 3½ miles southwest of Bristol via the Volunteer Parkway, is a 2,196-acre park with an 80-acre lake where visitors can, fish, swim and play golf. There is a large nature center which interprets the park's plant and animal life through exhibits and

programs. ☎ 423-989-5616 for information on the nature center; ☎ 423-764-4023 for information on the park.

**Sugar Hollow Park**, Lee Highway, ☎ 540-645-7275, offers picnic shelters, camping and an athletic complex.

### *Golf*

The scenic beauty of the Blue Ridge Mountains provides a relaxing atmosphere for golfing, while the mountainous terrain offers even the most experienced golfer a serious challenge. There are four private courses, **The Virginian Golf Club**, ☎ 540-645-6951, **The Country Club of Bristol**, ☎ 423-652-1700, **the Farm**, ☎ 540-669-1042, and **Old Island Golf & Residential Community**, ☎ 423-279-1700. There are five public golf courses, presenting a variety of course designs: **Cedars Golf Course**, ☎ 423-989-0064, **Clear Creek Golf Club**, ☎ 540-466-4833, **Holston Valley Golf Course**, ☎ 423-878-2021, **Steele Creek Golf Course**, ☎ 423-764-6411, and **Tri-Cities Golf Club**, ☎ 423-323-4178.

## *Annual Events*

**Bristol Blast 4th of July Celebration** is held each year at Bristol Motor Speedway. ☎ 423-764-1161.

**Carter Family Traditional Music Festival**, held the first weekend in August, celebrates the roots of country music at the Carter Family Fold in Hiltons. ☎ 540-386-6054.

**RaceFest** is a new two-week-long festival in August geared for the racing fan, coinciding with the Food City Family Race Night and the NASCAR race at Bristol Motor Speedway. For more information, call Bristol Motor Speedway at ☎ 423-764-1161.

**Fantasy in Lights** is held at Bristol Motor Speedway during November and December. ☎ 423-764-1161.

❖ *For more events in the Bristol area, call the Events Line at ☎ 540-645-4238 or visit www.bristolchamber.org.*

## *Dining*

Bristol offers an array of cafés, bakeries, gourmet shops and fine restaurants – more than 100 in all.

**The Feed Room**, 620 State Street, ☎ 423-764-0545, inside Antiques Unlimited, offers daily lunch specials, such as croissant sandwiches, veggie wraps and salads. Closed Sunday.

**Tokyo Japanese Restaurant**, 28 Commonwealth Avenue, ☎ 540-645-0399, serves lunch and dinner daily and sushi on weekends.

**The Troutdale Dining Room**, 412 Sixth Street, ☎ 423- 968-9099, provides ambiance with fireplaces and candlelight in an antebellum home. The award-winning restaurant serves international and American fare. Everything's made on the premises, and there's even a 750-gallon trout tank, so you know it's fresh! Their motto is "we make everything but the butter."

**Vinyard Restaurant**, 603 Gate City Highway, ☎ 540-466-4244, serves chicken, steak, seafood, veal and Italian dishes.



## *Accommodations*

Most establishments offer both handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms, but be sure to ask when making reservations.

### *Hotels & Motels*

All are in Bristol, VA, unless otherwise noted (the state line runs through the city, so some are in Tennessee).

**Best Western**, 111 Holiday Drive, Bristol, TN, ☎ 423-968-1101, has 179 rooms, a restaurant, handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms, and offers a free continental breakfast. $$$

**Budget Host Inn**, 1209 W. State Street, ☎ 540-669-5187, has 24 rooms, with non-smoking rooms available. $

**Days Inn**, 536 Volunteer Parkway, Bristol, TN, ☎ 423-968-2171, has 65 rooms, an outdoor pool and serves a free continental breakfast. It is within walking distance of the shops and restaurants along Main Street. $$

**Comfort Inn**, 2368 Lee Highway, ☎ 540-466-3881, has 60 rooms and a pool. Free continental breakfast; senior citizen discount. $$-$$$

**Econo Lodge**, 912 Commonwealth Avenue, ☎ 540-466-2112, has 48 rooms, including non-smoking rooms. Pets are allowed, and there is a restaurant nearby. $-$$

**Hampton Inn**, 3299 West State Street, Bristol, TN, ☎ 423-764-3600, has 91 rooms, serves a free breakfast, and has an outdoor pool. $$

**Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites** 3005 Linden Drive, ☎ 540-466-4100, has 226 rooms. There is a full-service restaurant, meeting rooms, a pool and a bar, as well as a senior citizen discount. $$-$$$

**La Quinta Inn**, 1014 Old Airport Road, ☎ 540-669-9353, has 123 rooms, a pool and offers a free continental breakfast. $$

**Ramada Inn**, 2221 Euclid Avenue, ☎ 540-669-7171, has 121 rooms, and provides a free continental breakfast. $$

### *Bed & Breakfasts / Inns*

**New Hope Bed & Breakfast**, 822 Georgia Avenue, ☎ 423-989-3343, has four rooms, all with private bath. All your needs are catered to, including bathrobes, hair dryers and a delicious breakfast. The late Victorian home has a wrap-around porch and swing, and a game room with a pool table. The owners host Murder Mystery Weekends with a catered gourmet dinner. $$$

### *Camping*

Camping is available at **Cochran's Lakeview Campground**, 821 Painter Creek Rd., Bristol, TN, ☎ 423-878-8045.

## *Transportation*

The **Tri-City Regional Airport** is 13 miles southwest of Bristol just off Interstate 81. The airport is served by most major and regional carriers with direct or connecting flights to all major domestic and international destinations.

If you are arriving by car, Bristol is accessed principally by **Interstate 81** and **US 11**, which connects to I-77 and I-40.

## *Information*

For information, brochures and a full list of area restaurants, hotels and shops, contact the **Bristol Convention & Visitors Bureau**, 20 Volunteer Parkway, Bristol, VA/TN 24203-0519, ☎ 423-989-4850. Ask for the detailed brochure on the self-guided walking tour of the city. Visit their Web site at www.bristolchamber.org.

# Montgomery County

Nestled in the heart of the Blue Ridge Mountains, Montgomery County offers the best of two worlds. The county is a combination of urban redevelopment, small historic communities and the outdoor world of the mountains and forests.

Established in 1776 and named for General Richard Montgomery, who served in the first Virginia regiment commanded by George Washington during the French and Indian War, Montgomery County once covered an area of more than 12,000 square miles.

# History

Montgomery County is rich in history and tradition. The first settlers were predominantly Scotch-Irish from Northern Ireland. The majority of those early settlers were Protestant, fiercely independent and idealistic, with strong religious convictions. Many were indentured servants who sold themselves into service for a period of time, usually seven years, to pay for their passage to the New World.

Today, Montgomery County combines a spirit of history with modern technology. A small town atmosphere and the rolling hills and deep green valleys highlight a county community of a half-dozen or so towns and villages.



# Christiansburg

The Montgomery County seat is located in Christiansburg, a town established in 1792 on land donated by James and Ann Craig. Named for General William Christian, a noted figure in the Revolutionary War and brother-in-law of Patrick Henry, the town flourished as an outpost along the Wilderness Trail and served as a source of supply for the settlers traveling west.

Many famous people passed through the town during those early days, among them Davey Crockett, Daniel Boone, Booker T. Washington and John Buchanan Floyd, a future governor of Virginia.

Christiansburg was home to the Montgomery Male Academy and the Montgomery Female Academy before a public school system of education was implemented in Virginia.

# Blacksburg

Founded on land granted to Colonel James Patton in 1748, the Draper's Meadow Settlement was a forerunner to present day Blacksburg. In July of 1775, a group of Shawnee Indians killed, injured, or captured all but four from this early settlement in a raid that became known as the Draper's Meadow Massacre.

In 1772 Colonel William Preston came to the area, settled on Draper's Farm, and built what is now known as the Smithfield Plantation. On August 4, 1778, a town was established on land donated by William and Jane Black consisting of 16 square blocks. Since then, Blacksburg has grown and expanded, but the central downtown area continues to thrive to this day.

Blacksburg is also the home of Virginia Tech, formerly known as the Preston Olin Institute and the Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College.

Established as a land grant college on October 1, 1872, the university covers approximately 2,300 acres, including an airport, farms and orchards.

## Radford

More than 200 years ago the stagecoach route followed a path through the Blue Ridge and Allegheny Mountains near the New River. It was around that time that an enterprising settler built a tavern on the route and called it Lovely Mount. In 1840, a local landowner, John McTaylor, gave 1,000 acres of land to his daughter, who married John B. Radford, from whom the town of Radford gets its name. Radford is home to Radford University, which offers undergraduate and graduate programs.

## Shawsville

Shawsville is located outside of Christiansburg on Route 460. It stands on the former site of Fort Faux, a palisade constructed on the plantation that once belonged to Captain Ephraim Vaux, and built to hold the frontier for England and the colonies during the French and Indian War.

## Riner

A little farther along Route 460, just beyond Shawsville, lies the tiny community of Riner. Riner was founded sometime between 1827 and 1853. Known at first as Five Points because of its location at the confluence of five rural roads, it was a spontaneous crossroads community that grew up near a local sawmill.

The little village later became known as Auburn, but didn't really grow until after the Civil War.

## Sights

**The Fine Arts Center for the New River Valley**, 21 Main Street in Pulaski, has two galleries with exhibits that change monthly. There is an "Art Mart," where artists display and sell their work. Open Monday through Saturday. ☎ 540-980-7363.

**Mountain Lake**, located 20 miles northwest of Blacksburg on US 460, is a resort lake. The area is most inviting in late June and early July when the azaleas and rhododendrons are in full bloom.

**New River Valley Speedway**, 6749 Lee Highway, Radford, ☎ 540-639-1700, hosts NASCAR-sanctioned races, April through September.

**Smithfield Plantation**, a quarter-mile west of Blacksburg on US 460 at the Virginia Tech exit, is a restored Colonial house, the former home of

two Virginia governors. The old home features original woodwork, antique furniture and landscaped grounds. There is a museum and a store. The plantation is open from April through early December. ☎ 540-231-3947.

**Virginia Tech Museum of Geological Sciences** is located in Derrin Hall, Blacksburg, and exhibits gemstones, fossils, a working seismograph, and the largest display of Virginia minerals in the state. It is open Monday through Saturday, and there is a gift shop, ☎ 540-231-3001.

**Virginia Tech Museum of Natural History**, 428 N. Main Street, Blacksburg, ☎ 540-231-3001. It's open to the public Wednesday through Sunday.



## *Annual Events*

**Mary Draper Ingles Journey "The Long Way Home,"** Wilderness Road, Radford, ☎ 540-639-0679, is a historic outdoor drama of the 1755 capture and escape of Mary Draper Ingles, who was captured in a Shawnee Indian raid. Ingles escaped and trekked 800 miles through the rugged terrain to reach home. Performances are held from mid-June through August.

**The Blacksburg/Virginia Tech Summer Art Festival Concerts**, held on Friday evenings during June and July, host local artists in live musical concerts showcasing a variety of musical forms. ☎ 540-231-5921 for schedules and information.

**Montgomery County Historic Festival**, held on the second Saturday in June, features tours of Smithfield Plantation by guides in period costume, demonstrations of canning, weaving, basketry, and blacksmith techniques, and Civil War re-enactments. Call the Blacksburg Parks and Recreation Department, ☎ 540-961-1135.

**Independence Day Parade & Festival** features a parade down Main Street, Blacksburg, bands and fireworks. Call the Blacksburg Parks and Recreation Department, ☎ 540-961-1135.

**Riverfest** is held in July in Bisset Park in Radford, and features barbecue contests, raft races, live music and a crafts show. Call the Radford Chamber of Commerce, ☎ 540-639-2202.

**Steppin' Out**, held in Blacksburg over the first Friday and Saturday of August, features an extensive variety of arts and crafts, clothing, jewelry, food and novelty items. It draws more than 60,000 people. Call the Downtown Merchants of Blacksburg, ☎ 540-951-0454.

**The Wilderness Trail Festival**, held in September in Christiansburg, is a celebration of the town's heritage and traditions. Everything happens on Main and Hickock Streets. Call the Christiansburg Chamber of Commerce for more information, ☎ 540-382-4241.

**Septemberfest** spans two days of wine-tasting, food sampling and live jazz on Main Street in Radford. Other fun includes a carnival, radio-controlled car race and miniature golf tournament. For more information, call the Radford Chamber of Commerce, ☎ 540-731-3656.

**Oktoberfest** at Mountain Lake features German food, beer, wine, and live traditional music. Takes place every Friday and Saturday night throughout the month of October. ☎ 540-626-7121.

**Blacksburg's Christmas Parade** occurs the first Saturday afternoon in December on Main Street. ☎ 540-961-1135 for information.

## *Dining*

More than 50 restaurants, cafés and fast food eateries offer a wide variety of dining opportunities in the Greater Blacksburg area. Atmosphere ranges from the college coffee shop where students study at the tables to a cozy log cabin.

**Anchy's Restaurant**, 1600 N. Main Street, Blacksburg, ☎ 540-951-2828, serves a variety of seafood, with the catch of the day depending on what comes off the truck. Open for lunch and dinner; closed Mondays.

**Easy Chair Coffee**, 801 University City Boulevard, Blacksburg, ☎ 540-951-1628, is located in a mall and the atmosphere is eclectic. Mornings bring bagel sandwiches and the commuting crowd grabbing cups of coffee. Afternoons and evenings – until midnight – bring in the college crowd for homemade soups, salads and a variety of 12 different sandwiches. The shop is brightly painted and features rotating works by area artists.

**The Farmhouse**, 285 Ridinger Street, Christiansburg, ☎ 540-382-3965, is open dinner for dinner and special events in a renovated 1800s farmhouse, specializing in steaks and American food.

**The Huckleberry Restaurant**, 2790 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg, ☎ 540-381-2382, is located in a log cabin. You can get everything from prime rib to a children's meal.

**Kabuki Japanese Steak House & Sushi Bar**, 120 Arbor Drive, Christiansburg, ☎ 540-381-3600, is one of two locations; the other is in Roanoke. Open for dnner only.

**Martingayle's**, is in the Four Points Sheraton, 900 Prices Fork Road, Blacksburg. It is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner and serves a full menu of American-style fare.

**Portabellas**, 915 Heathwood Boulevard, Blacksburg, ☎ 540-552-7111, is open for fine Italian dining, Tuesday through Friday for lunch, and Tuesday through Sunday for dinner.

# Accommodations

Most establishments offer both handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms, but be sure to ask when making reservations.

## Hotel & Motels

**Best Western Radford**, 1501 Tyler Avenue, Radford, ☎ 540-639-3000, has 72 rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. The hotel has a full-service restaurant, meeting rooms and a pool. There is a senior citizen discount. $$

**The Best Western Red Lion Inn**, 900 Plantation Road, Blacksburg, ☎ 540-552-7770, has 100 rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. Amenities include a full-service restaurant, meeting rooms, an indoor pool and a bar. Pets are allowed in the guest rooms. Senior citizen discount. $$

**Comfort Inn Radford**, 1501 Tyler Avenue, Radford, ☎ 540-639-4800, has 32 rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. There are meeting rooms and a pool. A senior citizen discount is offered. $$

**Comfort Inn Blacksburg**, 3705 South Main Street, Blacksburg, ☎ 540-951-1500, has 80 rooms. Handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms are available. Free continental breakfast; senior citizen discount. $$

**The Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center**, on Otey Street in Blacksburg, ☎ 703-231-8000, has 128 rooms, including handicapped-accessible, hearing-impaired and non-smoking rooms. There is a full-service restaurant, meeting rooms and a 600-seat auditorium. It's on the Virginia Tech campus and guests can use the pool facilities. Pets are allowed and there are discounts for seniors. $$

**The Dogwood Lodge at Radford**, 7073 Lee Highway, Radford, ☎ 540-639-9338, is a small, quiet motel with 15 rooms. Enjoy badminton, croquet and horseshoes. $

**Econo Lodge**, 2430 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg, ☎ 540-382-6161, has 72 rooms, some non-smoking. There is a pool and a coffee shop nearby. Pets are allowed. $

**Four Points Hotel by Sheraton-Blacksburg**, 900 Prices Ford Road, ☎ 540-552-7001, is located across from Virginia Tech and a public golf course. There are 149 rooms, a restaurant, fitness center, heated indoor pool, and a tennis court. $$$

**Hampton Inn**, 50 Hampton Boulevard in Christiansburg, ☎ 540-382-2055, has 125 rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. The hotel has meeting rooms, a pool and a bar. Senior citizen discount. $$

## *Resort*

**Mountain Lake Hotel**, State Route 700, Mountain Lake, ☎ 540-626-7121 or 800-346-3334, is about 20 miles north of Blacksburg, off US 460. This magnificent century-old retreat on 2,600 acres by Mountain Lake was used as a setting for the movie *Dirty Dancing*. There is a lodge, restaurant, cottages, hiking trails, boating, tennis, a beach and children's programs. There are 90 rooms, from a rustic cottage to a suite with fireplace and whirlpool bath. It's open May through October. $$$

## *Bed & Breakfasts / Inns*

**The Alleghany Inn**, 1123 Grove Avenue, Radford, ☎ 540-731-4466, has five rooms in a small, Colonial inn. There is an excellent restaurant with an extensive wine list. $$

**Clay Corner Inn Bed & Breakfast**, 401 Clay Street, Blacksburg, ☎ 540-953-2604, has 12 rooms in several houses with a variety of styles, some with shared kitchens. There is a pool, and non-smoking rooms available. $$$

**Evergreen-The Bell Capozzi House**, 201 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, ☎ 540-382-7372, has five rooms in a three-story Victorian, all with private bath. Guests can enjoy the heated pool. $$-$$$

**The Oaks Victorian Inn**, 311 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, ☎ 540-381-1500, has seven rooms in an 1893 Queen Anne Victorian. Some rooms have whirlpool baths and all are non-smoking. $$$

**River's Edge**, 6208 Little Camp Road, Riner, ☎ 540-381-4147 or 888-786-9413, has four rooms, all with private bath. The inn is located in a private valley. Sit and rock on the porch, or cozy up to a fireplace. A full breakfast served. $$$

## *Camping*

**Claytor Lake State Park**, located on Virginia Route 660, six miles southwest of Radford, is set among the wooded hills of the Blue Ridge. The 4,500-acre lake and its surrounding countryside provide a variety of sporting and recreational opportunities that include boating, fishing, swimming, horseback riding, camping, hiking and birdwatching. Facilities at the park include a marina, campsites with water and electric hookups, 12 housekeeping cabins, a dumping station, flush toilets and hot showers, a snack bar and rental horses. ☎ 540-674-5492 for reservations and information.

## *Transportation*

Montgomery County is served by the **Roanoke Regional Airport** and the **Virginia Tech Business Airport** with direct or connecting flights to all major domestic and international destinations.

## *Information & Transportation*

For information, brochures and a full list of area restaurants and hotels, contact the **Blacksburg Regional Chamber of Commerce**, 1995 South Main Street, Blacksburg, VA 24060, ☎ 540-552-4503, or the **Blacksburg Regional Visitor Center** at the same address, ☎ 540-552-4061 or 800-288-4061, Web site is www.blacksburg-chamber.com.

Information may also be obtained from the **New River Valley Visitors Bureau**, 6580 Valley Center Drive, Box 21, Radford, VA 24141, ☎ 540-633-0116.



# Smyth County

Smyth County may appear just a dot on the map, but don't let appearances fool you. Its mountainous terrain holds gems waiting to be discovered by the adventurous traveler.

Marion, the county seat, has a Main Street full of shops and historic buildings. North of Marion, a winding road leads to Saltville, a town whose mineral deposits have attracted both man and beast for millions of years. In the southwest portion of the county stands Mount Rogers, Virginia's highest point and a playground for thrill seekers.

## *History*

Smyth County is rich with tales of woolly mammoths and mastodons, Indian habitation and Civil War battles. On a lighter note, it is also where a local entrepreneur bottled the first Mountain Dew soft drink.

More than 300 million years ago, a shallow, saltwater sea covered this and surrounding counties. This sea would evaporate every few million years, leaving behind rich deposits of salt and gypsum. These great stores of minerals attracted prehistoric people and animals. As a result, Saltville today is an important site for archeological studies of woolly mammoth, musk ox, and mastodon bones. Locals say you can't drill a well in Saltville without finding some type of prehistoric bones.

Visitors can tour the archeological sites and see artifacts dating to 12,000 B.C. at the Museum of the Middle Appalachians. Today the well fields and ponds attract a variety of migrating waterfowl.

The white men's first experience with the area is shrouded in mystery. When explorers came, they found Indian villages recently abandoned. A large permanent native settlement existed near present-day Saltville, from around 1000 to 1500. But, apparently, around 1600 to 1650, Native Americans began to leave southwest Virginia. Even today, archaeologists aren't sure why.

In the early to mid-1700s, frontiersmen like Daniel Boone began exploring southwest Virginia, using the famous Wilderness Road. Today, Route 11 in Smyth County follows its path.

In 1745, James Patton obtained a land grant which included much of present-day Smyth County. He, along with John Buchanan and Charles Campbell and their descendents, played major roles in the area's settlement.

Smyth County was created in 1835 and named in honor of General Alexander Smyth, who had represented the area in Congress. In 1849, Marion was established as the county seat, named for General Francis Marion, the "Swamp Fox" of the Revolutionary War.

During the Civil War, Saltville was the "Salt Capital of the Confederacy," an important status. Salt was vital in preserving meat in the days before refrigeration. North and South fought several times for the town's saltworks, as well as the lead mines at Austinville. Today, historians are using satellite technology to unearth a dark chapter in this region's history, to learn if historical accounts of a massacre of black Union soldiers is actually true.

In 1927, one of Smyth County's most famous residents came to town. Noted short story writer Sherwood Anderson purchased Marion's two weekly newspapers, and served as editor and publisher until 1932. The Marion City Drug Store was a popular place for Sherwood his friends. In his columns, he created a fictional reporter, Buck Fever, who made observations about the happenings in the county.

In the early 1950s, Bill Jones, president of Tip Corp. in Marion, formulated the soft drink Mountain Dew. In the 1960s, the Olin Company in Saltville manufactured hydrazine, which powered the first manned moon landing in 1969. In the 1970s, Saltville's last mine closed, in part due to new environmental regulations, but the well fields and archeaological digs can still be viewed today.

Rather than fade into history as simply another of southwest Virginia's mining towns, Saltville has instead battled back and remains a viable community with a fascinating history, well worth visit.

# *Sights*

**The Museum of the Middle Appalachians**, 123 Palmer Avenue in Saltville, ☎ 540-496-3633, is a quality museum worth the trip up Route 107 from Exit 35 off I-81. The museum is one of southwest Virginia's newest, exhibiting Saltville's fascinating history through artifacts, photographs and exhibits. Witness how Olin Corp. brought sulphur up from the ground, how archeologists recovered mammoth bones, and how the town rebounded from the closing of the mine. The museum's rock gallery explains different types of rock strata characteristics found in southwest Virginia. It is open daily and offers tours of a nearby archeological site.

**Smyth County Historical Museum and Society** is a double attraction, featuring a house museum at 109 W. Strother Street and a 1908 school building across the street. Both are in downtown Marion. The house belonged to former Virginia Lieutenant Governor Lewis Preston Collins II. Inside, the intricate woodworking is well preserved, as is a striking mural in the dining room. Of unknown origin, this oil-on-canvas is symbolic of the region's founding influences: castles and windmills of Europe, and rustic cabins of the settlers. In the town's first public high school across the street, the historical society displays exhibits on Southwestern State Hospital and rural life of the 19th and early 20th centuries. ☎ 540-783-7067.

**Main Street Marion** took on a fresh look after a landscaping project and new sidewalks were built. A self-guided pedestrian "HistoryWalk" takes in the exhibits at the Smyth County Historical Museum, the Historic Lincoln Theatre, the Lincoln Inn, and other historic buildings. ☎ 540-783-4190.

**Post Office Antique Mall**, 142 East Main Street, Marion, ☎ 540-782-9332, houses a variety of antique vendors in the town's restored post office.

**Frank Sanders Memorial Salt Park**, on West Main Street, Marion, ☎ 540-496-5342, has a furance and salt kettle dating to the Civil War.

**Civil War Fortifications.** On Buck Eye Hollow Road and on Walnut Street, Marion, you can see the remains of the extensive battleworks built to protect the Confederacy's salt mines during the Civil War.

The **Settlers Museum of Virginia** in Atkins, ☎ 540-686-4401, tells the story of the Scotch-Irish and Germans who came and settled in the mid-1700s. There is a restored 1790s farm, school and many outbuildings. It is open March through November. ☎ 540-686-4401.

**Glade Mountain Museum**, 6711 Lee Highway in Atkins, ☎ 540-783-5678, houses antique tools and equipment.

## Recreation

**Clinch Moutain Wildlife Area** is a fisherman's dream. Big Tumbling Creek gushes and falls through this 25,000-acre wildlife area, set aside just for fishing, hunting and primitive camping. Permits and fees apply, so ☎ 540-783-4860.

**Hungry Mother State Park** covers 2,000 acres of rugged mountain and pristine lakefront. There is camping, hiking, horseback riding, boating, fishing and swimming on the 108-acre lake. It is located five miles north of Marion off I-81. ☎ 540-783-3422 for activity information. For camping reservations, ☎ 800-933-7275.

**Mount Rogers National Recreation Area** encompasses Virginia's three highest mountains among its 115,000 acres of park. Mount Rogers, at 5,729 feet, is the highest. There are extensive backcountry hiking trails, a number of drive-in campsites with short day hike loops, plus fishing, horseback riding and mountain biking. Headquarters for the recreation area are located in Marion, ☎ 540-783-5196, where a visitor can pick up a number of helpful brochures. Access the recreation area by taking Highway 16 south from I-81 at Exit 45.

## Annual Events

**Hungry Mother Arts and Crafts Festival** in July draws artisans from southwest Virginia to the state park, just north of Marion on Route 16, making for a great weekend of browsing, food and music. ☎ 540-781-7400.

**Marion's Independence Day Celebration** features all the fun of an old-fashioned Fourth of July, including a fireworks display. ☎ 540-783-3161 for a schedule of events.

The **Rich Valley Fair and Horse Show**, held at Rich Valley Fairgrounds on Route 630 in Smyth County in August, celebrates the area's agricultural heritage. ☎ 540-624-3263.

The **War Between the States Battle Re-Enactment** takes place in late August in Saltville, with encampments and demonstrations. ☎ 540-496-5342.

The **Saltville Labor Day Celebration** last four days, with plenty of music, and includes demonstrations of salt-making. ☎ 540-496-4212.

The **Chilhowie Apple Festival** in September in Chilhowie pays homage to the importance of apple-growing in the area. ☎ 540-646-3618.

# Dining

**Apple Tree Restaurant**, Highway 16 South, Marion, ☎ 540-782-9977, serves steak, ribs, chicken and seafood, and is open daily.

**Ciro's Pizza**, 784 N. Main Street, Marion, ☎ 540-782-1707, serves New York-style pizza and has a full Italian menu. Open seven days a week for lunch and dinner.

**Great Wall Chinese Restaurant**, 1133 North Main Street in Marion, ☎ 540-783-8818, serves a full Chinese buffet daily.

**Happy's Restaurant**, 437 N. Main Street, Marion, ☎ 540-783-1515, serves steaks, seafood, barbechued spare ribs and cocktails. Open for lunch and dinner; closed Sundays.

**The Village Café** is located in the Martion Best Western Hotel, 1424 N. Main Stree, Marion, ☎ 540-783-3195. It serves hand-cut steaks, seafood, ribs and pasta. They have a wine list. Open seven days a week; closed for lunch on Saturdays.

**Wright Field Sports Café** is located in the historic R.T. Greer & Company buildling at 107 Pendleton Street in Marion, ☎ 540-783-4062. The company was once the nation's top supplier of herbs to pharmaceutical houses. Open for lunch and dinner, closed Sundays, it serves hoagies, burgers, pizza, prime rib, shrimp and chicken.

**Hungry Mother Restaurant** at Hungry Mother State Park, ☎ 540-781-7420, has a very good restaurant that is worth the six mile drive up from Marion.

**La Paloma Mexican Restaurant**, 292 East Main Street, Marion, ☎ 540-782-1776.

**Mountain Side Restaurant**, at 108 River Side Road in Chilhowie, ☎ 540-646-3086, serves seafood and country cooking. Seating comes with a great view of the moutains.

**Salt Box Café and Grill**, 151 West Main Street in Saltville, ☎ 540-496-5999, has ethnic specials, chargrilled burgers and homemade desserts.

**Singleton's Pizza Factory**, 133 Palmer Avenue in Saltville, ☎ 540-496-4000, has all-you-can-eat lunch specials and Friday fish frys.

# Accommodations

Most establishments offer both handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms, but be sure to ask when making reservations.

**Best Western-Marion**, 1424 North Main Street in Marion, ☎ 540-783-3193, has 79 guest rooms, the Marion Village Café and Lounge, a pool and free breakfast. Pets are allowed. $$

**Chub's Motel & Restaurant**, 525 East Main Street in Saltville, ☎ 540-496-4444, has 20 guest rooms. The restaurant, ☎ 540-496-3395, specializes in prime rib, charbroiled steaks and pork BBQ. $

**Days Inn**, 5558 Lee Highway in Atkins, ☎ 540-783-2144, has 50 guest rooms and a free continental breakfast. $-$$

**Econo Lodge**, 1424 North Main Street in Marion, ☎ 540-783-6031, has 40 guest room. Pets are welcome. $$

**Fox Hill Inn B&B**, 8568 Troutdale Highway in Troutdale, ☎ 800-874-3313 or 540-677-3313, has six guest rooms and a suite, all with private bath. This new house sits on 70 acres with fantastic panoramic views of the mountains. There are patios, a full breakfast and guests can use the kitchen for lunch and dinner. $$

**Tranquility Lodging**, 1324 Ripshin Road, Troutdale, ☎ 540-677-3638, is a Christmas tree farm with a self-contained apartment for daily lodging. It sleeps four and there is an eat-in kitchen. $-$$

**Virginia House Inn**, 1419 North Main Street in Marion, ☎ 540-783-5112 or 800-505-5151, has 38 guest rooms, a pool and free breakfast. Pets are allowed. $-$$

## *Transportation*

The nearest commercial airports are **Tri-Cities Regional Airport** in Blountville, TN, 75 miles southwest of Marion, and **Roanoke Regional Airport**, 100 miles to the northeast. **Greyhound** serves Marion at Dabney Road, ☎ 800-231-2222 or 540-783-7114.

## *Information*

**Chamber of Commerce of Smyth County**, 124 W. Main Street, ☎ 540-783-3161, has a tourism office with brochures and information available. Visit www.smythchamber.org.

# Wytheville & Wythe County

## *History*

Wytheville actually began as the incorporated town of Evansham in 1792, named in honor of Jesse Evans, a prominent citizen. Just 47 years later, the town trustees thought better of it, and the name of the county seat was changed to Wytheville.

The town became a popular stopping point for settlers heading west, and later, its mineral spas and mountain air brought vacationers from the heat of the South. Wytheville's lead mines made it an important Civil War target for Union forces operating in southwestern Virginia, and there were four major skirmishes here.

Today, Wytheville is a popular outdoor vacation destination nestled between the Blue Ridge and Allegheny Mountains.

## *Sights*

**Haller-Gibboney Rock House**, corner of Tazewell and Monroe, has been an important part of Wytheville's history since it was built in 1823 by the city's first physician, Dr. John Haller. The home was used as an infirmary and school during the Civil War, and as a boarding house when Wytheville became a popular resort. Today it is a museum, with hundreds of artifacts and furnishings that preserve family life of the 19th and early 20th century. The original part of the home is made of native limestone, and there are five gardens, including medicinal plants and herbs, on the grounds. Thirty-minute guided tours are available April through October, and December for the Christmas Tour. ☎ 540-223-3330.

**The Thomas J. Boyd Museum**, located adjacent to the Rock House on Tazewell Street, is named for Colonel Thomas Jefferson Boyd, "The Father of Wytheville." The building was actually Wytheville's first agricultural classroom, built in 1926. Col. Boyd came to Wythe County in 1830 and served in public office for 53 years, during which time he surveyed and laid out the town's streets. The museum preserves artifacts relating to the lives of the people of Wythe County. Exhibits include Wytheville's fire wagons, the lead mining industry, and Wytheville's famous residents. There is also a genealogical resource library. ☎ 540-223-3330.

**The Shot Tower State Park**, at Jackson's Ferry, six miles east of Wytheville on Interstate 81, stands on a bluff overlooking the New River. One of only three still standing in the United States, this is a fortress-like stone shaft with walls 2½ feet thick that rises 75 feet above ground and extends below ground another 75 feet to a water tank. Molten lead was pored through sheet iron colanders from the top of the tower. During a fall of 150 feet the molten lead formed itself into round globules that hardened when they hit the water, thus forming round shot. The park features a visitor center and interpretive programs and a number of hiking trails and picnic areas. The park is open daily from Memorial Day to Labor Day. ☎ 540-699-6778.

**Big Walker Lookout**, 12 miles north of Wytheville on Big Walker Mountain Scenic Byway, is a 120-foot observation tower at an elevation of more than 3,400 feet. The Lookout offers magnificent views of the surrounding countryside; be sure to take a camera. There's also a swinging bridge, a gift shop, a snack bar and a picnic area.

## Sidetrip: Tazewell County

Tazewell County is about as close as you can get to experiencing what pioneer life was like in southwest Virginia. The county still rural, with much of it engaged in farming. Hollywood even chose the bucolic scenery of Tazewell County for the shooting of the 1994 remake of *Lassie*. The county's five incorporated towns – Bluefield, Cedar Bluff, Richlands, Pocahontas and Tazewell – offer quaint streets, historic churches, old-fashioned festivals, and comfortable B&Bs.

At the **Crab Orchard Museum and Pioneer Park**, west of Tazewell on US 19/460, ☎ 540-988-6755, a reconstructed village shows how settlers actually lived. The museum tells the story of the Appalachian frontier, while 13 historic log and stone buildings re-create life in the 1830s.

Across from the Crab Orchard Museum is the **Higginbotham House Museum** on Pisgah Road, ☎ 540-988-3800. The 1811 home houses artifacts of the Colonial era and Native American collections, and there is an 18th-century garden.

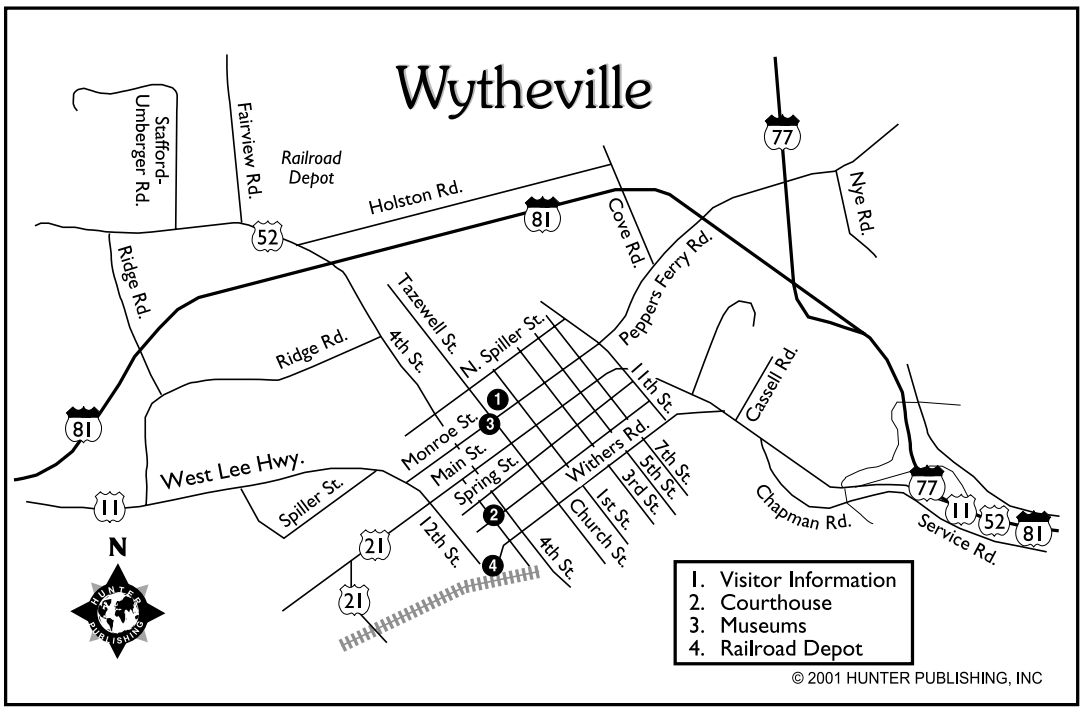
In the southeast part of the county is **Burke's Garden**, a unique agricultural and geological area that is Virginia's largest rural Historic District and a National Landmark. Accessed via Route 623, this fertile area is within a bowl-shaped indentation on top of a mountain and is home to several hundred people. The Appalachian Trail passes nearby. Visit Burke's Garden General Store and Shady Pine Store.

Near Pocahontas on Route 659 is the **Pocahontas Exhibition Mine and Museum**, ☎ 540-945-2134, open daily from April through October. Here visitors can see the history of coal-mining and get a tour of a real mine that first opened in 1882. Bring your jacket: the temperature is a constant 52°.

For more information on the attractions, dining and lodging in the area, contact **Tazewell County Tourism**, Route 1, Box 194, Tazewell, VA 24651, ☎ 800-588-9401.

**Burke's Garden Fall Festival** is held on the last Saturday in September. ☎ 800-588-9401.

**Tazewell County Fair**, one of Virginia's largest old-fashioned fairs, is held the second week in August. ☎ 800-588-9401.






## Entertainment

**Galewinds Amusement Park**, Route 2, ☎ 540-228-3020, has go-carts, miniature golf and an arcade. There is a new par 3 lighted golf course and driving range. Open all year.

**Historic Millwald Theatre**, Main Street, ☎ 540-228-5031, is the oldest theatre in Virginia, and has been showing first-run films since it was built in 1928.

**Wohlfahrt Haus**, 170 Malin Drive, ☎ 540-223-0891, is a 200-seat dinner theater featuring a different production each month, and offering a German and American menu. There is a gift shop with German collectibles, and a lounge with a beer garden.

## Annual Events

**Wythe County Festival at Foster Falls New River State Park** is held in early June. For more information, call Wythe Chamber of Commerce, ☎ 540-223-3365.

**The Chautauqua Festival**, held over nine days in June, includes a parade, educational events, performing arts productions, art shows, children's activities and a variety of music and entertainment, ☎ 540-223-3355.

**The Jubilee Festival** is held the first week in July at Ivanhoe Jubilee Park, ☎ 540-699-1383.

**Wytheville Christmas Parade** is in early December in Downtown Wytheville, ☎ 540-223-3365.

**Home for the Holidays** in December features tours of homes decorated for the holidays, ☎ 540-228-2204.

## *Shopping*

There are many specialty shops in the downtown area of Wytheville or close by. You can find outlet stores, specialized book stores, Christmas shops, antique malls, Appalachian crafts and a wide variety of other shops.

❖ *Don't miss **Kincer-Miller Hardware** at 140 W. Main Street, ☎ 540-228-3146. It's one of the last of the old-time hardware stores. Their claim: "If we don't have it, you don't need it."*

## *Recreation*

You can enjoy the fresh mountain air, pay a visit to the Elizabeth Brown Memorial Park in the center of downtown and take a pleasant stroll or have a picnic. You can also visit Wither's Park, or take a swim at the McWane Pool. For a day out in the open air, however, there are several possibilities. These include:

**New River Trail State Park**, a 57-mile linear park or greenway that follows an abandoned railroad right-of-way and parallels the scenic and historic New River for more than 29 miles. ☎ 540-699-6778.

Fishermen and hikers can really get away from civilization in the nearby **Jefferson National Forest.** The Appalachian Trail passes through the forest.

**Big Bend Picnic Area** within Jefferson National Forest is open year-round, and features large boulders, oak trees, and scenic overlooks of the valley and ridge terrain. It is a prime location for birdwatching. From Wytheville, take Route 52 North for 13 miles, turn right on FS 206.

**Big Walker Mountain Scenic Byway** consits of 16 miles through the Jefferson National Forest. It begins at the intersection of Route 717 and Interstate 77, about five miles north of Wytheville. There are roadside markers telling the history of the area and beautiful views of the southwest Virginia mountains.

**Stoney Fork Campground**, on Route 717 in the forest, provides 53 sites at the foot of Big Walker Mountain. There are warm showers, flush toilets, pay phone, and disposal station. There is fishing on Stony Fork

Creek and a one-mile nature trail. There is also a new, fully-equipped cabin for rent.

**Rural Retreat Lake and Campground**, at Exit 60 off I-81, has a 90-acre fishing lake stocked with largemouth bass, bream and catfish. The campground has 72 wooded sites with hookups, a swimming pool, boat docks and rentals.

## *Dining*

The Wytheville area offers more than 40 restaurants for virtually any style or taste. Unique restaurants offering everything from hot dogs and Southern home cooking to ethnic fare are readily available.

**El Puerto**, 713 Chapman Road, ☎ 540-228-3159, serves authentic Mexican food in a fun atmosphere.

**Fireside Restaurant & Lounge**, ☎ 540-228-5483, at the Holiday Inn on US 11, serves breakfast, lunch and dinner with a great mountain view.

**Log House Restaurant**, 520 East Main Street, ☎ 540-228-4139, is located in an old log cabin, the original part of it dating to 1776. The restaurant serves sandwiches for lunch, and the dinner menu features seafood, steak and regional fare such as Virginia ham and Confederate stew.

**My Uncle Andy's Deli**, 155 East Main Street, ☎ 540-228-5443, is a downtown favorite, serving "Sandwiches the Way You Like 'Em".

**Peking Restaurant**, 105 Malin Drive, ☎ 540-228-5515, is open for lunch and dinner daily, with brunch on Sunday. Good Chinese food served in a Far East atmosphere. Reservations are suggested on the weekends.

**Scrooge's Restaurant**, 255 Holston Road, ☎ 540-228-6622, offers casual dining, specializing in steaks, seafood and sandwiches. Open daily for dinner.

## *Accommodations*

Most establishments offer both handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms, but be sure to ask when making reservations.

**Boxwood Inn Bed & Breakfast**, 460 East Main Street, ☎ 540-228-8911, has eight rooms, all with private bath, in an 1800s Colonial home. A full breakfast is served. Here you can get the ultimate pampering: a massage from a trained therapist. $$

**Comfort Inn**, at Holston Road on Interstate 81 at Exit 70, ☎ 540-228-4488, has 80 rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. There's a pool and free continental breakfast. Senior citizen discount. $$

**Country Inn & Suites by Carlson**, Route 2, Wytheville, ☎ 540-637-4281, has 60 rooms and plenty of country charm. There is an indoor pool and an exercise room. $$

**Days Inn**, 150 Malin Drive, ☎ 540-228-5500, has 118 rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. Free continental breakfast. Senior discount. $$

**Econo Lodge**, 1190 East Main Street, ☎ 540-228-5517, has 72 rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. Free coffee is available in the lobby. Discount for seniors. $-$$

**Hampton Inn**, 1090 Pepper's Ferry Road, ☎ 540-228-6090, has 68 rooms, some of them suites, with non-smoking rooms available. There is a pool and a restaurant nearby. $$

**Holiday Inn**, on US 11 at Interstate 81, Exit 73, ☎ 540-228-5483, has 199 rooms, including handicapped-accessible and non-smoking rooms. There is a restaurant and café, a pool and several meeting rooms. $$

**Quality Inn & Suites**, 2015 East Main Street, ☎ 540-228-4241, has 52 rooms, an indoor pool, a spa, Jacuzzi, family suites, and a continental breakfast. $$

**Ramada Inn**, 955 Pepper's Ferry Road, ☎ 540-228-6000, has 154 rooms; handicapped-accessible and non-smoking ones are available. Facilities include a restaurant and café, a bar, a pool and several meeting rooms. Senior discount. $$

**Rodeway Inn**, 355 Nye Road, ☎ 540-228-7300, has 100 rooms, including Jacuzzi and non-smoking rooms. There is an outdoor pool, and free continental breakfast is offered. $-$$

**The Shenandoah Inn**, 140 Lithia Road, ☎ 800-273-0935 or 540-228-3188, is a motor inn with 100 units. Free coffee is served in the lobby. $-$$

## *Transportation*

The nearest commercial airport is **Roanoke Regional Airport**, 75 miles east of Wytheville. **Greyhound** serves Wytheville on Route 2, ☎ 800-231-2222 or 540-637-6373.

## *Information*

For information, brochures and up-to-date visitor information, contact the **Wytheville Convention and Visitors Bureau**, 150 East Monroe Street, PO Drawer 533, Wytheville, VA 24382, ☎ 540-223-3355 or see the Web site at http://visit.wytheville.com.